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21 June 1982

NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

No. 2566

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TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, DEVELOPMENT IN REGION OUTLINED

International Shipping, Ports

London ARABIA in English No 9, May 82 pp 36-37

[Text]

The ports and shipping lanes of the Middle East have come a long way since the mid-1970s when the huge influx of imports precipitated by the big rise in oil revenues led to severe congestion in all but the most remote sites. Saudi Arabia, for example, now has more than 130 berths alone, which together are capable of handling a total deadweight tonnage (dwt) of 41.2 million.

The United Arab Emirates has more than 133 berths, including at least 100 in Dubai alone. Huge new container ports have revolutionised shipping in the area, and the growth of Arab fleets coupled with renewed efforts to train the indigenous labour force in the skills necessary to run a modern transport network have helped to reduce some of the bottlenecks while ensuring the Arab countries greater control over their own foreign trade. But many problems still remain. An unexpected event, like the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war, can bring congestion in again, almost overnight.

The lack of an adequate overall framework for ensuring that once goods arrive they are sent speedily on their way can make havoc of even the most efficient port, and create even more chaos on crowded roads and railways. Finally the failure to form unified transnational policies on transport can mean that one country's problems are simply shifted to another as shippers seek the most obstacle-free entry into the area. Port authorities and port management consultants are well aware of the difficulties and the 1980s fortunately may see greater efforts to ensure that the region's social and planning policies are given as much emphasis as the development

of its physical infrastructure has received in the past.

In Saudi Arabia the government's plan to spend some \$13.5 billion on transport and communications during the third five-year development plan (1980-1985) is attracting the attention of a multitude of both foreign and local companies skilled in a wide range of services, from port and harbour construction, dredging, design and management to the supply of locally-produced building materials and the training of local talent.

The huge new industrial and commercial ports at Jubail, on the Kingdom's Gulf coast, is proceeding on schedule and work is due to be completed this spring. Expansion work at the Yanbu commercial port, on the Red Sea coast, is virtually complete; work is now continuing on the construction of the industrial harbour, which is expected to handle more than 1.5 million tons of cargo by 1988. Both cities, which will become the main industrial centres for the Kingdom, and which will together house a total population of some 350,000, now need the related infrastructure roads, railways, warehousing and storage facilities, factories and residential complexes that will complete the picture.

The Saudi Ports Authority, under the Chairmanship of Dr Fayez Badr, together with the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu, is working to ensure that the multi-billion projects just completed or about to get underway ensure an adequate flow of traffic into the Kingdom for the consumer and industrial raw materials that will be needed as well as for the exports of petrochemicals, refined oil and steel that will follow later this decade. Having

supervised the containerisation of two of the biggest ports in the world – Jeddah and Dammam – as well as the expansion and modernisation of the Kingdom's fifth largest port at Jizan, the Ports Authority now has a wealth of experience behind it that should help it to overcome the problems of the past.

In the UAE the problem of overcapacity was temporarily eased last year when the country became a repository for distressed cargo due to the war in the northern part of the Gulf. A small boom in re-exports occurred in Dubai as shipping lines headed for Port Rashid to offload cargoes destined for Iran. But the prolongation of the war and the falling demand for consumer goods in Iran has since hit Dubai's merchants hard. Abu Dhabi is pinning its hopes on the 66-berth Jebel Ali port, which is the gateway to the new industrial zone located nearby. Complete with a free zone and facilities for roll-on/roll-off vessels, containers, bulk and dry cargoes, it is attracting more business both for the import of industrial raw materials and the direct dispatch of finished goods.

The deepwater container terminal at Khor Fakkan has the advantage of lying on the Gulf of Oman, thereby enabling ships to avoid the Straits of Hormuz altogether. Under the imaginative guidance of the emirate's ruling authorities, it has been linked with Sharjah's other main port at Mina Khaled in a multi-modal system that includes a very good cross road link and connections to the cargo facilities at Sharjah International Airport. This combination has made Khor Fakkan extremely attractive to shippers.

Further up the Gulf the Kuwait port of Shuwaikh has also been pressed into service to trans-ship goods to the war-torn areas, in this case, Iraq. Two berths were specifically set aside for cargoes bound for Iraq and it is estimated that between one-third and one-half of the four million tons of freight handled annually by the port consists of these transit supplies. This has made construction of new facilities, and especially of new cranes and quayside civil works, doubly imperative. A \$200 million programme to expand the port itself by adding nine new berths, is due to be completed in the next four years.

Kuwait's other major port, located at Shuaiba, has undergone expansion and now boasts 20 berths capable of handling bulk cargo carriers up to 70,000 dwt. Bids for the installation of container handling equipment have been received and new onshore buildings for storage and customs clearance are also scheduled to be built in the near future.

Another port which is booming as a result of the Iran-Iraq war is Aqaba, located on the Red Sea coast at the southern tip of Jordan. While at first it was feared that the boom would be short-lived, the long duration of the war has facilitated the development of permanent infrastructure at the port and in adjacent areas that could help to ensure the port's success even after the war has ended. Iraq has helped to finance the construction of new roads and desert stations connecting the port to the country's major highway network via Azrak. The urgent need to acquire transit facilities has also led to assistance in the construction of a new container terminal at Aqaba.

The same cannot be said for the troubled ports of the Mediterranean, along the Syrian and Lebanese coast. Expansion plans at Latakia and Tartous are underway, aimed at boosting capacity to 3.5 million and 4.5 million tons respectively. But Syria's financial woes coupled with the heavy expenditure on military imports has delayed work on the projects. Plans to build new commercial port at Sidon in southern Lebanon, complete with 850 metres of quay, by 1985 have been held up by the continuing conflicts in the country and by the Israeli incursions in the south. However Sidon businessman Rafiq al-Hariri, whose \$67 million plan for the port received approval from Lebanon's Reconstruction and Development Council last year, is thought to be still eager to proceed once the situation eases.

Financial problems have also affected Egypt's plans to expand the port of Alexandria, which handles 90 per cent of the country's seaborne-cargo imports, and to build an entirely new port at Dekheila. However a different picture prevails in Tunisia, where a World Bank grant of \$42.6 million is enabling plans for the extension of the ports of Sfax and La Goulette to go ahead. The resolution of Libya's cash-flow problems, caused by a drop in oil revenues, is also helping the government to proceed with several multi-million dollar port expansion projects, notably those at Benghazi and Tripoli.

In Algeria the country's \$104.4 billion development plan, which runs from 1980 to 1984, is placing special emphasis on the development of light industry and on the expansion of the country's physical infrastructure to overcome congestion and bottlenecks in transport and communications. The steadily rising volume of imports, which led to an increase of from 58.2 million tons in 1977 to an estimated 70 million tons in 1980, has

strained facilities at the country's major ports of Algiers, Oran, Annaba, Bejaia and Arzew, some of which also serve as trans-shipment centres for goods bound for African states further south.

Like the region's other major oil producing states, however, Algeria can no longer count on an easy flow of income to finance its infrastructural expansion plans. This means that it will have to take a close look at the blueprints to ensure that only those projects which are well designed and integrated into the country's economy as a whole get the nod to go ahead.

Highway Construction

London ARABIA in English No 9, May 82 pp 42, 46

[Text]

The boom in Middle East imports may be over now that oil revenues are falling, but any observer in the Gulf would think otherwise when it comes to the construction of new roads and bridges. Saudi Arabia alone is spending \$12.5 billion during its Third Year Development Plan (1980-1985); Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Libya and Algeria are also giving land transport a priority in their budgets, and other major projects are under way in Turkey, Morocco and the Yemens. Huge sums are also being spent on the import of long distance lorries and on the development of urban public transport. In the Gulf the number of privately-owned vehicles continues to proliferate and there is increasing interest in setting up local assembly plants to fulfill the big demand for motorcars.

The Saudi road-building programme, the biggest of its kind in the world, includes the construction of several new expressways between the Kingdom's major cities. Among these are the 383-kilometre Riyadh-Dammam expressway, another of 911 kilometres from Riyadh to Makkah and a third linking Makkah with Madinah, 482 kilometres away. The plans also call for the construction of a number of complex urban ring roads, complete with huge fly-overs, and a large increase in spending on upgrading existing roads. In addition there are plans to construct several major links to the Kingdom's neighbouring countries. One of these, now being undertaken jointly by the governments of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, is the \$564 million causeway being built by a Dutch construction group, Ballast-Nedam. The 25-kilometre link, which

includes the building of an artificial island to house workers and construction materials, is expected to be completed in 1985.

Oman hopes to double its road network, which currently consists of some 2,000 kilometres of asphalted road and another 15,000 kilometres of graded tracks, by 1985. Major projects are underway in the Musandam peninsula, where the need to protect the country's defences and to ensure the security of the Straits of Hormuz has led to a rapid escalation in development expenditure, and in the southern areas where both defence and the discovery of new oil and gas reserves has made road-building a top priority. Further up the coast both Kuwait and Qatar are focusing their attention on the need to improve town and rural roads both to ease congestion and to provide much-needed links with those segments of the population previously denied easy access to their capitals.

By far the biggest boost to road-building outside Saudi Arabia, however, has come from the need to overcome the massive congestion caused by the Iran-Iraq war and the loss of the existing overland routes which crossed through these two countries. As goods bound for Iraq have piled up at Jordan's port of Aqaba (which took over from Basra), at ports in Kuwait, in the United Arab Emirates and on the overland routes from Turkey through Syria, local transport companies have been pressed into action to help alleviate the stress. One of them, the Iraqi-Jordanian Overland Transport Company, recently bought 700 trucks from Maschinenfabrik Augsburg-Nurnberg (MAN) of West Germany and Steyr-Daimler-Puch of Austria.

Another Turkish company placed an order for 100 tractors and trailers to transport water supply pipes from Iskenderun to Baghdad. But with so many firms getting into the business, and with demand continuing at a high rate, the existing road networks have been sorely stretched. The World Bank is being asked to help finance a huge new scheme aimed at overcoming the hazards of the E5 route from Istanbul to the Syrian border via Ankara. Already a trucker's nightmare before the war, it has become almost impassable at times due to the congestion. The scheme is part of a bigger project to build a new Trans-European Motorway which would be 16,000 kilometres in length, running from Gdansk in Poland through Turkey with separate branches to Iran, Syria and Iraq.

Unfortunately this project requires considerable foreign aid funding for the Turkish section, and the poor state of the country's economy, coupled with the recent EEC restrictions on aid to the military regime, is holding up progress. More promising are Iraq's own plans for re-construction once the war has ended. It has already drawn up an ambitious \$1.5 billion programme for the building of roads and bridges. An Indian firm, Uttar Pradesh State Bridge Corporation, is considered likely to get a sizeable share of the work. In the Yemen foreign aid is helping to finance major schemes such as the construction of a road from the North Yemeni capital of Sanaa to Marib and from Taiz to Aden.

Aside from the huge sums being spent on road construction, the oil producing states of the Gulf and North Africa are also investing large amounts on the import of road vehicles. Although the Japanese have taken the lead in supplying both industrial vehicles and private motorcars in many of these markets, US and European firms seem to be making something of a comeback. In Libya, however, Japanese vehicle exports still account for about 60 per cent of the country's total vehicle imports. Mitsubishi Motor Corporation last year won orders from Libya for 22,120 vehicles, valued at \$83.3 million.

Toyo Kogyo Company, which markets vehicles under the trade name Mazda, is holding talks with the government on the supply of another 30,000 cars and light trucks, worth a total of \$131 million. In Saudi Arabia two British firms are tackling the problem of competition by selling innovative products. Leyland Vehicles reports that it has had orders for its new *Landtrain* heavy duty trucks from Kuwait, Qatar and Dubai. The vehicle was especially designed for difficult terrain

and features a choice of wheel bases and models for long distance haulage. Its lighter *Landmaster* range, launched in the middle of last year, has already elicited orders from Oman and Abu Dhabi. Another British firm, Car Bodies Ltd of Coventry, famous for the London taxicabs it produces, has marketed its *Range Rover Unitruck* in the Gulf.

The *Unitruck* is a modified *Range Rover* converted to a pick-up to allow for greater loads separated from the seating area. It can also be equipped with booms and chemical units for crop-spraying. The Arabian-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) is Saudi Arabia is considering using *Unitrucks* for its desert exploration programmes, and others may be sold to Kuwait.

Other European firms are keeping their eyes firmly fixed on the private car market, which is still mushrooming. In the case of Kuwait, for example, the number of cars registered in the state last year totalled 607,000, even though the population is only 1.2 million. This represents a threefold increase in the five-year period from 1977. Firms like Daimler-Benz, Renault, Peugeot, Fiat and Volkswagen are looking into plans to assemble a small car, with a 1500 cc engine, locally for sale in the Gulf states, Syria, Iraq and Jordan. This would get around the problems of shipping costs and delays at dockside and so provide an added incentive to local distributors to push their lines.

Western vehicle manufacturers are also eyeing the growing interest in bus transportation shown by the Gulf states. Saudi Arabia's intracity bus routes alone have grown to 85 since the Saudi Public Transport Company was established in 1979 and the number of passengers carried on the Kingdom's intracity, intercity, commuter and airport routes has risen to more than 60 million. The Company's fleet of 900 buses, including 200 inter-city coaches, is being expanded to bring the total up to 1,350 by the end of this year. Dubai is spending \$4 million on a new bus network which aims to link the city centre with out-lying areas. The government hopes to provide services running every 15 minutes to reduce the need to depend on taxis. The Kuwait Transport Company is tripling its fleet of buses and hopes to have a two-tiered bus system for the inner city. Other commuter networks may be provided for the new towns now being planned for Subiya and Khairan. With one of the world's fastest growing populations, the capital of Kuwait, like those of the other Gulf states, is fast bursting at the seams. Those suppliers able to tap this growing market will find rich rewards ahead in the next decade.

Airlines Industry

London ARABIA in English No 9, May 82 pp 50, 52

[Text]

The Middle East remains one of the world's bright spots as far as the airline industry is concerned. While some countries, such as Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Turkey, which cater to the tourist trade from Europe and North America have been affected by the recession and the decline in passenger demand, other states in the area are continuing to expand both their airports and airlines. This is especially true in the Gulf, where some of the world's biggest projects are underway.

Saudi Arabia is building a huge new international airport at Riyadh, and is planning another at Dhahran. Smaller fields, for domestic use, are also to be built at Taif, Hofuf and Baha. The Riyadh airport, which is to cost some \$4.5 billion, will be even larger than the King Abdulaziz International Airport opened in Jeddah a year ago, which covers some 100 sq km - the largest in the world. Work on the site, 35 kilometres north of the capital, is well advanced and the airport should be open by the end of 1983. The Bechtel Corporation of the US, through its joint venture, Saudi Arabian Bechtel, is managing the project together with the US-based architectural consultancy firm of Helmuth, Obata and Kassabaum.

A go-ahead is also expected shortly for the construction of a new international airport in Kuwait. The existing one, which was only opened two years ago, was designed to cope with a load of four million passengers a year but is already suffering from congestion. Shaikh Jaber al-Azbi, the head of Kuwait's Civil Aviation Department, said in March that it had handled 27,264 flights last year, an average of one every 20 minutes. Passenger growth in the present facilities is expected to rise nine per cent a year over the next decade and this has already led to plans to build a new runway at the complex. It is due to be opened in 1985.

Qatar is also considering plans to build a new international airport at Doha; it could be completed as early as 1984. The decision last year to exploit the country's huge reserves of offshore natural gas is already leading to an influx of businessmen, and more are expected as the economy grows. The existing facility handles more than half a million passengers and some 15 million kilograms of air freight a year.

Another new airport is scheduled to be built in al-Ain, in the United Arab Emirates, as part of the government's attempts to remove pressure on the capital and the coast. It is due to open by the mid-1980s. Abu Dhabi's new International airport opened in January; it is expected to take some traffic away from the Dubai International Airport which is overcrowded and also being expanded. However plans to enlarge the international airport at Sharjah are likely to be shelved. The government's hopes that it could become a focal point for tourism and a centre for the long-haul trade between Europe and the Far East have not materialised, and the recession in air traffic worldwide is not likely to improve prospects in the near future.

Work is also well advanced on the construction of a huge new international airport in Baghdad despite the war with Iran. It is being built by a consortium of firms from West Germany and Austria at a cost of some \$4 billion. The opening was originally set for this summer, but is now expected to occur sometime later this year. Elsewhere in the Middle East, plans are under way for a huge expansion of the Tripoli International Airport in Libya. A British firm, Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners, has been appointed consultant for the project, which is expected to cost just under \$300 million. It will include the building of a new terminal, the re-surfacing of existing runways and the construction of new maintenance buildings and engineering and administrative facilities. Gibb is already at work on a £54 million project to extend the airport's parking apron. A South Korean firm, Samsung Construction, won the contract last year.

The airlines in Libya and the Gulf states are also busy expanding their fleets to service rising demand from both the indigenous population and overseas visitors. Libya's national carrier, the state-owned Libyan Arab Airlines (LAA), has ordered eight turboprop *F-27 Mark 600 Friendship* aircraft from the Dutch firm Fokker-VFW for use on its domestic routes and in October signed a joint venture deal with British Caledonian to open a new cargo route between London, Tripoli and Benghazi which has already carried over three million kilograms of air freight between Britain and Libya. LAA expects its own

passenger traffic to total some 3.6 million by 1985, compared to just over a million in 1980.

Saudi Arabia's national line, Saudia, expects to be carrying some 15 million passengers a year by 1985, almost double the 1980 rate, and nine times as high as the volume carried in 1975. Its fleet of 13 *Lockheed L-1011 TriStars*, 19 *Boeing 737s* and six *Boeing 707s* is being expanded rapidly, both by new planes and by leasing aircraft from other lines. Its latest plans call for the acquisition of eleven new *Boeing 747s* and eleven Anglo-French *Airbuses*.

Kuwait Airways, which operates long distance hauls to the US, Europe and the Far East as well as to other countries in the region, has ordered eleven *A-310* *Airbuses* equipped with US-made Pratt and Whitney engines. They are due to be delivered by the end of 1983. Gulf Air, the Bahrain-based line which is the flag carrier for Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, is planning to open new routes this year linking Cairo, Tunis and London as well as the Gulf states and Cyprus. Passenger traffic handled by the airlines rose by 10 per cent last year, to 2.2 million despite increased competition from other carriers operating in the Gulf. A projected rise in air fares this year, after a period of price cutting by its competitors, and the decision by Pan American in March to drop its once-weekly stop in Bahrain should lead to another sizeable increase in Gulf Air's passenger traffic in 1982. To service the new routes, the airline last year ordered a new *Lockheed L-1011 TriStar*, which will bring its fleet of *TriStars* up to seven. The latest acquisition will be equipped with *Rolls Royce RB 211-524* engines; *Rolls Royce* is also re-equipping the engines in the airline's existing fleet under a \$27 million contract.

A private company in Oman, one of Gulf Air's partners, is also expanding its own fleet of light aircraft. There are reports that its

Oman Aviation Services (OAS) is also looking to purchase a *TriStar* or similar aircraft. OAS last year bought Gulf Air's entire light aircraft division, including its Dutch *Fokker Friendships* and UK *Shorts Skyvans*, to provide a basis for its fleet.

North Yemen's national carrier, Yemenia, expects to acquire several new aircraft this year as the result of a \$75 million purchasing programme initiated last year with government aid. The programme is part of a major plan to attract more tourists to the country and to increase hard currency earnings. Travel agents and tour operators were briefed on the plans during a special conference held in Sanaa in January. Airline officials said then they hoped to double the number of tourists coming to North Yemen from 20,000 in 1981 to 46,000 in 1983.

Even Middle East Airlines (MEA), the 35-year-old Lebanese carrier, is planning to expand despite a difficult year in 1981 caused by the fighting in the country and the loss of much of its passenger traffic. Managing director Salim Salam said in September that an agreement to buy five aircraft from Airbus Industrie is still going ahead, though delivery dates may be delayed. MEA is planning to open new services this year to Lebanon from Brazil via West Africa and from New York via Paris, as well as from Beirut to Manila. The first two routes would be particularly attractive to Lebanese emigrants in the Americas and Africa, while the third, which would be operated in conjunction with Saudia and Philippines Airlines, aims to attract the 310,000 Filipinos in Saudi Arabia and Lebanon.

Observers who have watched the airline successfully survive the civil war in the mid-1970s, the continuing fighting in the southern part of the country and the current recession in air traffic are not overly sceptical about the airline's expansion plans, but they will require, at the minimum, some stabilisation of the situation in Beirut. In the meantime, airline operators, manufacturers and suppliers can take heart from MEA's example which shows what a combination of professional and committed staff, aggressive management and a loyal public can do even in the most difficult circumstances.

Rail Transport

London ARABIA in English No 9, May 82 pp 52-53

[Text]

In the 1970s the rapid growth of air and road transport in the Middle East, particularly in the Gulf states, stood in stark contrast to the situation in rail transport. Existing lines, in Egypt, Iraq, Turkey and Tunisia, many of which were built during the colonial days, were almost totally neglected. Proposals to build new lines in the Arabian peninsula and elsewhere were drawn up, studied and then filed away and ignored. Now all that has changed. The cost of fuel, rising local consumption of petrol, the increasing demand for cheap freight and politics are all contributing to a remarkable resurgence of interest in railway development throughout the area.

One of the biggest projects to make progress in the last year is a proposal for a 1,700-kilometre Gulf Railway connecting Iraq with the Indian Ocean via Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Additional links would be built to Bahrain and Qatar. While the need to ease surface transport congestion on the roads is a major consideration, Gulf planners also see the route as one way to avoid the danger that imports could be held up if the Straits of Hormuz, at the southern tip of the Gulf, were closed for any reason. When fears that this might happen arose shortly after the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war shoppers throughout the area rushed to the markets, leaving food stocks and building supplies decimated. The lesson that many countries remain all too vulnerable to the closure of their ports was quickly learned.

Consultants for the project, British Rail's subsidiary, Transmark, report that Iraq and Kuwait have given approval for their sections and similar action is now expected from Saudi Arabia, the Emirates and Oman. Iraq is said to have been greatly impressed by the fact that after months of fighting with Iran and con-

siderable aerial shelling, their Baghdad-Basra line is still carrying some 30 trains a day, thereby enabling freight to get through when all else is blocked.

The Gulf states are also looking at proposals to extend the railways in Turkey to provide better links between Europe and the Arabian peninsula. Saudi Arabia agreed in February to help finance a \$43.5 million programme to improve the 577-kilometres of track linking the Mediterranean port of Iskanderun with Divrigi in eastern Turkey. Improvement of this line would ease shipments to Syria and Iraq from Turkey, as well as providing better transport to the gulf. Kuwait is being asked to fund other major projects in Turkey, including plans to build a rail tunnel beneath the Bosphorus Bridge.

To the west, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya are reviving plans to unify and connect their lines along the coast to enable freight and passengers to go by rail from the Atlantic coast to the Egyptian border. Libya is building a new 1,300-kilometre line along the coast from Misurata to the Egyptian border while Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco are either modernising or expanding existing track and improving new rolling stock. Still other projects, valued in hundreds of millions of dollars, are under way in Morocco, Algeria and Libya to link the coastal cities with iron, phosphate and mineral deposits in the Sahara. Morocco is also considering building a major rail link to connect the country with Spain, while both Algeria and Tunisia are looking at ways to improve their urban transport and commuter networks. One way or another, it certainly looks as if "The Age of the Train" is about to arrive in the Middle East.

CSO: 4400/306

PUBLIC RELATIONS EXCHANGES WITH USSR PROLIFERATE

Donation to Red Crescent

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 11 May 82 p 4

[Text]

KABUL, May 11 (Bakhtar).— About 2,000 meters of cloth and 2,000 cans of child food have been donated by the USSR Red Cross to the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

The donation and its documents were handed yesterday to the general secretary of the ARSC by the first secretary of the Soviet embassy.

Dedication of Lenin Monument

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 15 May 82 p 1

[Text]

KABUL, May 15 (Bakhtar)— Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC and President of the RC, unveiled a monument to V.I. Lenin in Termez on May 13.

Speaking at a ceremony on this occasion, Karmal said: "The Afghan-Soviet friendship is firm. It will serve us as a guarantee of future successes in safeguarding the gains of the Saur Revolution and in building a new life."

He added: "The hand of friendship extended to us by our great northern neighbour provides reliable support to the Afghan people in their work for a brighter future of their motherland."

Also speaking at this ceremony, Sharaf Rashidov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uz-

bekistan, said: "The ideas of V. I. Lenin, a monument to whom we are now unveiling, serve as a reliable foundation of friendship and fraternity with the people of Afghanistan who have set out to build a new society."



Karmal, Laying a Wreath of Flowers at the Lenin Monument at Termez.

State Visit to Tashkent

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 19 May 82 p 1

[Text]

KABUL, May 19 (Bakhtar).—Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA CC and President of the RC, and the high-ranking party and state delegation of the DRA headed by him

made a brief stopover in Tashkent, capital of Soviet Uzbekistan, yesterday on their way to Berlin.

The Afghan delegation was received by Sharaf Ra-

shidov, alternate member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the CPSU and First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, Khawajaev, President of the Presidium of the High Council of Uzbek Soviet socialist republic, Noor Mohammad Khodai Berdiev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, and other prominent figures.

After a brief stay, Karmal and his delegation left Tashkent.

According to another despatch, Karmal and his companions arrived in Kiev, the centre of Soviet Ukraine, on their way to the GDR.

They were warmly welcomed at the airport by the party and state leaders of Ukraine, DRA ambassador Habib Mangal, Afghan students in Kiev and residents of the Kiev city.

The delegation visited Lenin's Museum in the city.

ADN adds from Berlin: The GDR was looking forward to the official friendly visit Karmal is paying to this country today. Expecting to usher in a new stage of the friendly relations between the two countries.

Bilateral relations are basing on the close cooperation between the two leading parties, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, developing along the lines of an agreement concluded in 1980.

Inter-state relations rest

on 19 agreements and protocols, particularly in the fields of foreign trade, education and health care, culture and science. Economic cooperation is coordinated by a joint commission. The GDR exports mainly telecommunication and transport equipment and printing machines, and imports chiefly dried fruit.

Many Afghans study at GDR vocational and technical schools or at universities. Moreover, the GDR has sent teachers to Afghanistan.

The GDR's Trade Union Confederation, the youth and women's organisations as well as the sports union have begun establishing friendly relations with the corresponding Afghan organisations.

The two countries feel closely linked by concurring views on basic international questions and by common anti-imperialist positions. The GDR supports Afghanistan's measures to defend its sovereignty and condemns imperialist interference in the country's internal affairs.

"It is high time that those attempting to counter all efforts for detente with allusions to the Afghanistan question stop their interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and make serious contributions to finding a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan. There is already a good basis, namely the proposals made by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan", the theoretical monthly of the SED, Einheit, says in its May issue.

New Friendship Chamber

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 20 May 82 p 1

[Text]

FAIZABAD, May 20 (Bakhtar)— An Afghan-Soviet friendship chamber was opened at the public health directorate of the Badakhshan province.

The provincial committee secretary spoke on the traditional friendship between the two countries.

Soviet Gifts to People

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 23 May 82 p 2

[Text]

AIBAK, May 23 (Bakhtar).—Hundreds of the people in the Dare Souf district, Samangan province, benefited recently from the gifts of the Soviet Union.

Celebration of Pioneers Anniversary

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 23 May 82 p 4

[Text]

KABUL, May 23 (Bakhtar)— To mark the 60th founding anniversary of the All-Soviet Union Pioneers' Organisation named after Vladimir Ilych Lenin, a function was held by the DRA Pioneers' Organisation in the Central Palace of the organisation yesterday.

A large number of pio-

neers of both the countries attended the function.

An Afghan Pioneer spoke on the significance of the day and congratulated the Soviet pioneers on the occasion.

The function ended with concert, gymnastics, and revolutionary songs.

At the end, the representatives of the Soviet pioneers visited different sections of the palace.

Football Match with Tajik Team

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 23 May 82 p 2

[Text]

KABUL, May 23 (Bakhtar).—A friendly football match was played between

the Pamir-Dushanbe team of Tajikistan of the Soviet Union and the selected team

of the Armed Forces Sports Club and the Police Academy at the Kabul National Stadium yesterday afternoon.

The Pamir-Dushanbe team scored one goal and won the game.

A large number of spectators watched the game.

The Pamir-Dushanbe team played another match against the selected joint team of the Kabul University and Independent Clubs on Thursday afternoon.

The 90-minute game ended in a draw (2-2).

Insight into DRA-Soviet Relations

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24 May 82 p 3

[Text]

A new book on relations of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, authored by Leonid Teplinisky, the noted Soviet historian and titled "USSR and Afghanistan 1918-1981" has been published by Nauka publishers, Moscow.

This book comprehensively evaluates the history of Soviet-Afghan relations on the basis of facts, in the perspective of important issues of international relations specific to this particular historical period.

The regaining of the complete independence of Afghanistan in the year 1919 from the British colonialists proved Lenin's wise prediction, that the Great October Socialist Revolution strengthens the spirit and boosts up the morale of the masses of the people of the East and plays a great role in the awakening of the colonial and dependent countries to be entirely true.

The Soviet state led by

Lenin was the first country which recognised the independence and right of self-determination of Afghanistan and decisively supported and defended it in the international arena. It is noted in the book that the treaty concluded on February 28, 1921 between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union is a treaty unprecedented in history. The treaty meant an international accord regarding the rendering of economic and military assistance to the Eastern countries, i.e., to the people who were defending the gains of their independence.

Beginning with the year 1921, the stage of development of fruitful and extensive relations between the Soviet Union with the Eastern Governments including Afghanistan was begun.

It was in this stage that firm foundation of the equitable economic relations between the two countries for the long coming years was laid.

The information contained in this book testifies to the fact that the Soviet Union not only doubled the volume of its trade with Afghanistan, but also exerted efforts to develop it further. The extension of a Soviet railway line upto Termez in the year 1925 played an important role in this regard.

After the Saur Revolution, particularly, in its new evolutionary stage, the relations of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union elevated to a new and a higher level from the point of view of cooperation in the political, economic, cultural and other fields.

The book mentions that under the conditions of undeclared war waged by imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and reaction of the region against the people of Afghanistan, the relation of the DRA with the Soviet Union is a decisive factor in guaranteeing the defence of the gains of the Saur Revolution.

The treaty of friendship, good neighbourliness and cooperation between the DRA and the Soviet Union signed in 1978 "is a historic step towards developing

and deepening of all-sided relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union".

The authentic documents contained in this book finally testify that the two countries, being loyal to the spirit and letters of this treaty, are implementing daily the articles and the principles stipulated in this treaty. These are the principles of complete equality of rights, mutual respect to each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other.

The book notes that the relations of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union exert positive influence on the political situation in Asia. These relations are of high significance for the developing countries.

Cooperation between the DRA and USSR is a reliable testimony of the great importance of the alliance of the forces of Socialism and national liberation movements and anti-imperialist forces in the world revolutionary process in the struggle for liquidation of shameful heritage of the past.

Elders Visit Tajikistan

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24 May 82 p 3

[Text]

A group of over 40 elders, old men, peasants and 'defenders of revolution' belonging to the different tribes of the Khost division, Paktia province, recently returned from a 10-day friendly visit to the Soviet Tajikistan Republic.

At a Press conference on

May 20, in the Nationalities and Tribal Affairs Ministry, they gave eye-witness accounts of the development and the real living conditions of the people of that republic.

Answering a question about the results of their visit and the impressions gained, the leader of the group said

that the visit was very instructive. The important gain of the visit was that everything there was contrary to the false claims and unfounded allegations of imperialism and its lackeys about the conditions of life of the Muslim inhabitants of that republic.

He said that all the people of Tajikistan enjoy complete freedom in carrying on their day-to-day activities and exercise their religious freedom. He said he and his members of the group, while performing the Friday prayer in the Yakub Charkhi mosque, witnessed that the mosque was thronged by thousands of Hajik Muslim worshippers.

He described the Tajik Soviet Republic as an advanced and blossoming area enjoying a high standard of life and culture.

Sayed Rahman, another member of the group, said: "What we saw in Tajikistan was all compatible with the past traditions and practices of the people. We saw nothing which would run counter to the Islamic religion. People even in very remote areas of the republic lead a happy prosperous life and live according to what they wish and desire themselves".

STRUGGLE AGAINST COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES PUBLICIZED

Crimes of Bandits Denounced

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 23 May 82 p 1

[Speech by Minister of Tribes and Nationalities Solayman Laeq]

[Text]

KABUL, May 23 (Bakhtar).— Sulaiman Laeq, Tribes and Nationalities Minister, participated in a big public meeting in the Sheberghan city recently.

Speaking at the meeting he dwelt on the 'principled policy of the party and state', he condemned strongly the "crimes of counter-revolutionary bandits and mercenaries of reaction and imperialism headed by the US, who are committing crimes under the veil of Islam".

He asked the toiling people of Jauzjan to "fight bravely against these mercenaries and not to allow them to disrupt peace in Afghanistan".

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the party's provincial committee, a number of elders, ulamas, spirituals and representatives of other social organisations of the province.

Another despatch says: Thousands of the people of Darae Soof district, Samangan province, renewed their pledge for "all sorts of

devotion and sacrifice to implement the progressive programmes of the party and state" in a large gathering at a village of the district last week.

They strongly condemned the "shameful and anti-human deeds of the agents of imperialism and reaction against the party, state and the country" and declared an "unreserving struggle", against them.

Laeq addressed the gathering on the "efforts of the party and the Government for the well-being and prosperity of the people and the construction of the new society in Afghanistan".

He said: "The forces associated with imperialism and reaction who have lost their interests desperately attempt, in collaboration with Chinese hegemonism led by the US imperialism, to hinder the gains of the Saur Revolution. We declare courageously and decisively that the revolution enjoys the full support of all the people of Afghanistan. And the party and state are forging ahead fearlessly.

He commended the people of the district for their "revolutionary and patriotic feelings towards the party and the Government" and introduced Wakil Nezamuddin, the new sub-governor of the district, whom the people have elected to the post.

The gathering was also addressed by Mawlawi Bara, on behalf of the elders of the district, and Sayed Mohammad Shah, a member of the 'revolution defence groups', on the "progressive plans of the party and the state".

They pledged "total devotion to defence of the gains of the revolution, particularly its new and evolutionary phase, and the complete eradication of the remnants of the counter-revolutionary elements".

At the end, hundreds of the youth voluntarily joined 'revolution defence groups'.

Afterwards, a game of 'buzkashi' was played.

The provincial committee secretary, the governor and some officers of the Balkh province also attended the gathering.

Struggle of Armed Forces Praised

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 24 May 82 p 3

[Text] GARDEZ, May 24 (Bakhtar).— The residents of the different villages of Jaji district Paktia province, in a gathering at the hall of the headquarters of the district military unit condemned the treacherous acts of intervention by the imperialist and reactionary circles, headed by America imperialism, in the internal affairs of the country and expressed all-out readiness in defence of the gains of the Saur Revolution.

In the meeting, the Governor of Paktia, in his speech condemned the unhumanitarian acts of imperialism.

The president of the tribes and nationalities department of Paktia and Paktika spoke on the progressive policy of the revolutionary party and the Government and asked the residents of

the district to take an active part in building the country.

Another report from the provinces says, the residents of Aibak city, in a gathering recently appreciated the just struggle of the armed forces, revolution defence groups and the police of Samangan against terrorist bands.

They welcomed the heroes of the revolution with showers of flower petals and applause, and wished for their further successes in defence of the gains of the party and the Government.

The gathering was addressed by the secretary of the provincial committee, the Governor of Samangan and an army officer.

The residents of Meser Abad village of Sheberghan, Jauzjan province, in a mee-

ting reaffirmed their sacrifices in the defence of the gains of the national and democratic revolution and in the struggle against anti-revolutionary bands.

Some elders of the village spoke on the importance of the plans of the party and the Government in building a blossoming country and pledged readiness in implementing these progressive programmes.

Members of the provincial council of the WDOA branch of Kunduz, in a meeting at the hall of the provincial municipality, expressed support for the decisions of the second plenum of the WDOA CC recently.

Some members of the organisation spoke on the importance of these decisions and pledged all-out cooperation in implementation of the decisions.

Expose of Pakistan Bandit Camps

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 May 82 p 1

[Interview with Seyyed Azim, former camp inmate]

[Text]

KABUL, May 25 (Bakhtar).—"In a Jamiyet camp in Peshawar, Pakistan, six Chinese and seven Americans instructed us. Due to the inhuman conditions in the camp, 32 persons escaped. And in the escape attempt, several were killed", said a criminal trained in a military camp in Pakistan in an interview.

Following is the text of the interview:

Question: First introduce yourself and tell us to which counter-revolutionary band you belong?

Answer: My name is Sayed Azim, son of Sayed Alef. I am resident of Badghis. I am semi-literate and 21 years old and am a member of the Jamiyat.

Q: How did you and through whom did you establish ties with the band?

Answer: I used to work in Iran. One day while I was working, I was captured by a person named Khodabakhsh and was taken to the Jamiyat office in Teheran. The chief of the office, Zya-uddin Bahaiee, sent me to a house where six other people were also kept.

Then, I, along with a person from Wardak, was sent to Pakistan. We were put in a house called Northwest, near the railway station in Peshawar.

Q: You received military training in a Pakistan-based military camp. Tell us about the location of the camp and the people who

trained you.

Answer: The camp is located in a vast desert near Bala city and Peshawar valley. It is one and half hours from Peshawar city. The camp is encircled with barbed wires and has many tents. The commander of the camp is called Qudos Khan.

The Pakistani instructors were called Musa Khan, Sattar Khan and Ahmad Musa Khan. Moreover, there were six Chinese and seven Americans engaged in teaching us. They used cars to commute to the camp. They only taught us and said nothing else. We were not allowed to ask them questions. We were not given their names. Their translators were Pakistani.

In addition, other people by the name of Noor Mohammad, Mehrabuddin Khan, Mohammad Gul Khan Sadeqi and Mawlawi Kakar also worked in the camp. They were Afghans.

We were 130 persons in the camp at first. At the end only 98 persons remained. The rest escaped at night or on various pretexts. The inmates said that several were killed in the attempt to escape. We were not allowed to leave the camp.

Q: What were you taught and what practical training did you receive?

A: For one month we were engaged in setting up tents, constructed bathrooms, granaries and kitchens. Then we were taught from

8 a.m. to 12 noon and free from 12 noon to 2 p.m. then we were taught the parts of arms, the cleaning of arms. We were taught to use Chinese machine guns and American arms.

Q: Are there other military training camps in Pakistan engaged in the training of counter-revolutionary bands?

Answer: There are many such camps there. I know that there were two other camps near my camp. One of these is called Balaber camp no. 2.

"The camp is located four kms away from Peshawar, and first aid and photography are taught in it", cadet Shir Mohammad and Latif, inhabitants of Logar, told me. They said that foreigners teach military lessons. And the second camp located near our camp belongs to Mawlawi Khalis; we were allowed to contact the people of that camp, and told that they oppose the Jamiyat.

Q: During your stay in Pakistan and courses, did you realise from which countries counter-revolutionary bands receive their weapons?

A. More weapons came from the US, Egypt and China, and some other countries also sent weapons.

Q: Since you were in Pakistan for a period of time, tell us if you know something about the living conditions of the refugees in Pakistan.

A. The conditions are not good in the camps. The refugees were told that, if they

return to Afghanistan, they would be killed, and threatened. I have not seen the camps personally, but, heard from inmates who said that their families are living in the camps, and they pictured the camps as very bad and with very bad living conditions. The refugees have too many problems which one cannot describe. According to their sons who were with us, problems of bread, medicines, and shelter exist. The refugees were forced to drink spoilt milk, and good camps were sold in the markets and the old camps distributed to the refugees, and medicines were sold in the markets.

Burhanuddin Rabani is living in a beautiful house in Hyderabad and has vehicles and bodyguards. He is against others and is afraid of the people. It is difficult to meet him. Women and elders, whose husbands and sons were sent to battle, want to see him and demand food of him, so as not to die of hunger. They keep coming for days, but there is no one to help them. Burhanuddin himself leads a life of luxury and is oblivious of others.

Q. In addition to the lessons of assorted weapons, what else was propagated in the military camps to you?

A. It was said to us: "The Government of Afghanistan is anti-religion, anti-Islam and against your beliefs, it kills you and stops prayer and other religious rites. It was said to us: "When

you go to Afghanistan, if you are caught, do not expose our secrecy and do not talk of the courses we teach". They ordered us to close schools, not to let the students go to schools and tell the people that the Government is not Muslim and Islam is in danger, and "if people do not do according to your sayings, then fine them, beat and torture them, and thus force them to cooperate with you".

Q. When you came to Afghanistan, did you find it correct that the Government is annihilating the religion?

A. After the training in Pakistan, I went to Iran and from there came to Afghanistan and was captured on the way. I saw the behaviour of the personnel of the Government when I was brought to the security authorities in Herat and saw the food served and prayers held in the prisons and I even saw that security in-charges urged and encouraged them to pray. Now I realise that the counter-revolutionary bands had no other aim except to deceive us, start fratricide and to hit the people. I could not understand what Islam is in danger in Afghanistan, if Islam is praying, fasting and the people's faith, the Government encourages people to pray even in jails. I realised that those selfish and ambitious refugees are the lackeys of the US and have no aim except to destroy the people.

REBEL LEADER ADDRESSES SOLIDARITY MEETING IN ATHENS

Athens ELEVTHEROS KOSMOS in Greek 27 May 82 p 11

[Text] The voice of the Afghan resistance was heard in Athens the day before yesterday in front of a large audience where the slogan "Russians out of Afghanistan" was the theme.

Mohammed Eshaq, director of the Afghan rebels' radio station, spoke at the Gloria theater during a meeting of solidarity with the Afghan people, who are fighting against the Russian conquerors and their puppet, Babrak Karmal.

The meeting had been organized by the Protagoras Political Club and the Committee of Solidarity with Polish Workers.

Mohammed Eshaq denounced the "puppet military regime" in his country and the Russian army's and the KGB's atrocities. He especially referred to the tragedy of the 4 million refugees abroad and to the numerous prisoners held in Russian jails on Afghan soil, as well as to the staged trials and sentences that follow bungled proceedings.

He added that 1 million Afghan patriots have died for their motherland and that the rebels have already liberated 80 percent of the national territory, where they are attempting to organize a sort of government apparatus. He stressed the fact that, beginning last fall, the Russians' new policy consists in the destruction of the civilian population, both through arms and by depriving them of the means of existence.

The Afghans' struggle, he stated, is an anti-imperialists and anti-colonialist liberation movement, stressing: "The whole world knows that the only imperialist power fighting against the Afghans is the Soviet Union.

Among the salient points of his talk were the following:

"The movement of the Afghan people, which is 99 percent Muslim, supports the Palestinians' struggle and the Polish Solidarity movement; it does not follow the example of other Islamic countries and disapproves of the activities of the leaders of other Islamic nations.

The Soviets are not fighting against the Americans or the Chinese in Afghanistan, but against the Afghans.

"The Soviet Union has pretended to be the friend of the third world in order to gain sway over it; that is why it has attempted to conquer Afghanistan.

"The Russians will go on to conquer Iran, Iraq and the Persian Gulf, and then it will be too late to stop them. The law of the jungle will take over on the international scene and small nations will be unprotected.

"Whoever feels any friendship toward the Soviet Union should take lessons from Afghanistan.

"The Soviets have no ideological tendencies other than the exploitation of the poor. They are ready to do everything in their power to dominate other nations.

"No ideology can ever gain power over a people by force, and it cannot do it in Afghanistan.

"The present leader of the military regime in Afghanistan, Babrak Karmal, will suffer the same fate as Daoud, Amin and Taraki, who were killed on the Russians' orders."

Mohammed Eshaq affirmed that the rebels' armed struggle will continue and appealed to all countries to exert pressure on the Soviet Union so that the Afghan people can proceed to self-determination.

CSO: 4621/379

URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF KABUL BEING EXPANDED

New Residential, Road Projects

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 19 May 82 p 3

[Text]

"The Kabul Municipality is a body that pays a lot of attention to the lofty objectives of the party and the revolutionary Government. It therefore considers itself duty-bound to meet the demands of the citizens of Kabul and adjoining areas and provide them with better corporation. "During the last two years, fundamental steps have been taken for the all-round development of rural facilities for the citizens by the Kabul Municipality", Kabul Mayor Adina Sangeen told the Kabul New Times while speaking on the development plans of the municipality in the current Afghan year.

To expedite, regulate and perform better rural services for the citizens, the organisational set-up of the municipality was considerably expanded in the current year. This has helped to gear its activities to the socio-economic development of the city on the basis of its master plan and in response to the demands of the citizens. The municipality, as an active organ serving the people and relying

upon its financial and technical capability, has undertaken all-round implementation of the plan in 1361 H.S.

The plan, envisages asphaltting of 23 kms of roads including repair on five kms and macadamisation of the newly-built roads covering an area of 400,000 sq metres, illumination of 17,400 metres of roads, construction of buildings for the municipal precincts, building of condolence meeting halls, designing of the Bibi Mehro first phase sewage system, third Parwan, Shahrara, water closets and supply of constructional materials, among other things.

Also envisaged are asphaltting of Shah Shahid-Bagrami from the Yaklenga Pass to the Bagrami Textile Mills, asphaltting of the remaining part of the Qala Shada-Darulaman Road, Karte Parwan, Shah Shahid, the 60-metre Wazirabad—Khair Khana road, extension of the asphaltting work of Salang Wat to Deh—Keipak, the 500-family project road to the New Cinema, the road behind the Omar

Shahid High School, the Sayed Noor Mohammad Shah Mena Road and over 87,000 square metres repair work in other parts of the city.

The Mayor said that great strides have been made in construction of pre-fabricated houses and microrayans which are considerable, quantitatively and qualitatively, compared to the pre-revolution years and the years before the new phase of the revolution. The municipality envisages mechanization of its activities in cleaning the city in the near future. In the rural construction sector, construction of the second municipal precinct, a bridge in Khair Khana Mena, a market in the Wazirabad project, repair of the Kabul pavements, construction of condolence meeting halls in front of the Eidgah mosque and Khair Khana Mena and projects for supply of construction materials are proposed.

Work is underway for building other residential projects and distribution of land plots for the homeless. For this purpose, completion of the low-cost Nawabade Pule Charkhi residential project, which meets the needs of 1,000 persons for shelter, the Rahman Mena, Taimani, part of the Khair Khana project, Wazirabad and the Khoshal Mena project are planned.

Acquisition of land for these projects takes time and requires finance. The process continues. Due to the expansion and development of the city and implementation of the Kabul master plan, expropriation of the Kabul river banks from the Pamir Cinema to Mahmoud Khan bridge and

Murad Khani to Mahmoud Khan bridge, the old city street from Baghe Qazi and Chandawol to Ibne-Cina hospital, from the Intercontinental hotel road, the Kabul airport, part of Zarhgoona Wat to the Taimani Road.

Similarly, acquisition of the land for a parking lot for the Madare Wazir 'Saray' (Market) in front of the Pamir Cinema, the area behind the Microrayan central heating centre, the area in front of the Education Ministry, the old city residential quarters, Qalae-Zaman Khan and other areas planned for the state projects are envisaged.

Talking of greenery of the city and building of parks in Kabul, the Mayor said that the greenery and planting of saplings at the Khair Khana, Karte Seh, Sayed Noor Mohammad Shah and Wazirabad parks and the Martyr's Hill, sinking of a deep well and extension of pipes for irrigation of the Central Silo Park, planting of saplings on the two sides of the Shuhadaye Salehin Road and other parts of the city have been planned, and the work is in progress. But all these require permanent maintenance.

Among the project-making plans and programmes of the municipality in 1361, Eng Sangeen included that preparation of the blueprint and plan for acquisition of the Kabul river banks from the Pamir Cinema to Microrayan, of the Shahdo-Shamsherah to Pule Baghe Umomi; survey and evaluation of the plan for acquisition of the Shah Shahid-Bini Hesar road, the preparation of a blueprint for and survey of the

30-metre Wazirabad Road and the old city road from Baghe Qazir area to Ibne-Cina hospital, location of parking lots in different parts of the city, design of the party precinct in the municipal precinct, blueprint and survey work for the new municipality building, new water closets for the Kabul Mandawi (grain market) and condolence meeting halls in the Khair Khana and Jashen grounds. Similarly, work on completion of the blueprints of the first stage Shahrara project and its annexes, completion of the blueprints and detailed plans of the residential townships and the low-cost Nowabade Pule Charkhi, preparation for the acquisition of Ayub Khan Mena, west of Darulaman road and Chehelstoon, the industrial sites in Kamari, Qalai Zaman Khan and Taimani, preparation of the sketch, detailed plan for and location of the areas for the commercial centres.

Included also are surveys and studies for designing of Pashtoonistan Wat and Pule Baghe Umomi in front of the dental clinic subways, the design and blueprint for the old city street from Baghe Qazi to Ibne-Cina hospital, Guzargah to Deh Dana and the road adjacent to the Kabul River, Pamir Cinema to Microrayan, a scheme for designing two swimming pools on Bibi Mehro and Kolola Pushta hills.

Preparation of the acquisition plan for the third part of the Intercontinental Hotel Road, location and survey of the detailed plan for two graveyards in an appropriate site in Khair Khana Mena and Hoodkhail ar-

eas, location of an appropriate site for the tanning plant, carpet-weavers, slaughterhouse and the like are among the other plans.

A scheme for greening of Sayed Noor Mohammad Shah Mena, organising the designs of the first stage sewages of Shahrara project, survey of and design for the Sayed Noor Mohammad Shah Mena and 500-family project roads, survey for and design of the detailed acquisition plan of the Karte Ariana, a scheme for building the Deh Kepeq Square and its covered canal and completion of the reorganised plans of the A, B and C parts of Kho-

shal Khan project are also envisaged.

The Mayor said that, to expedite the construction work of the Microrayan apartment houses simultaneously with the development of the city and implementation of the master plan, the the Government has decided to merge the maintenance department of Microrayan and the Housing Factory, with the Kabul Municipal Corporation. In addition to the orders received by various institutions, the Housing Factory envisages the completion of 450 apartments in the form of 45-apartment blocks in the current year.

Housing Factory Output Increased

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 19 May 82 p 3

[Text]

The Housing factory has undertaken construction of nine blocks of apartment houses during the current Afghan year. With renovation, repair and reorganisation of production lines, the factory has expanded the overall volume of its production from 30,000 metres to 51,000 sq metres.

This was stated by Eng Abdul Latif Noorzad, president of the Housing Factory of the Kabul Municipality, during an interview with the Kabul New Times.

Elaborating on the reorganisation and renovation of the production lines, Eng Noorzad added: "The extension and development project, carried out under a separate agreement concluded between

the concerned Afghan and Soviet authorities, was opened ahead of schedule and on the eve of the countrywide PDPA conference. Work on the renovation project had been begun in July 1980 by the Moscow Institutes of Project-Making and, as a result of the revolutionary zeal and perseverance of the Afghan engineers and workers in collaboration with the experts of the friendly and fraternal country of the Soviet Union, it was completed six months before the plan target."

As a result of renovation, the factory can now produce 100,000 metres of mixed concrete material a year and the storage capacity for cement has been raised to 500 tons. A

new area has also been built where construction materials for 10-storey apartment houses are to be stored. Similarly, the steam house can now produce 15.5 tons of steam per hour compared to 7.5 tons prior to renovation.

The development of the compressor plant from 40 to 50 tons steam per hour, installation of new machinery at the iron rolling workshop, instillation of new machinery at the steam room, installation of new moulds, etc are among the improvements brought about by reorganisation. Similarly, in the course of renovation work, over 120 skilled workers have received further training, and a number of students from the Polytechnic have done their practical work during the renovation process.

Despite the renovation work in progress, the factory was able, during the same period, to fulfill an average of 138 per cent of its working plan. Thus, one can say with certainty that, during the current year and the two following years, the prod-

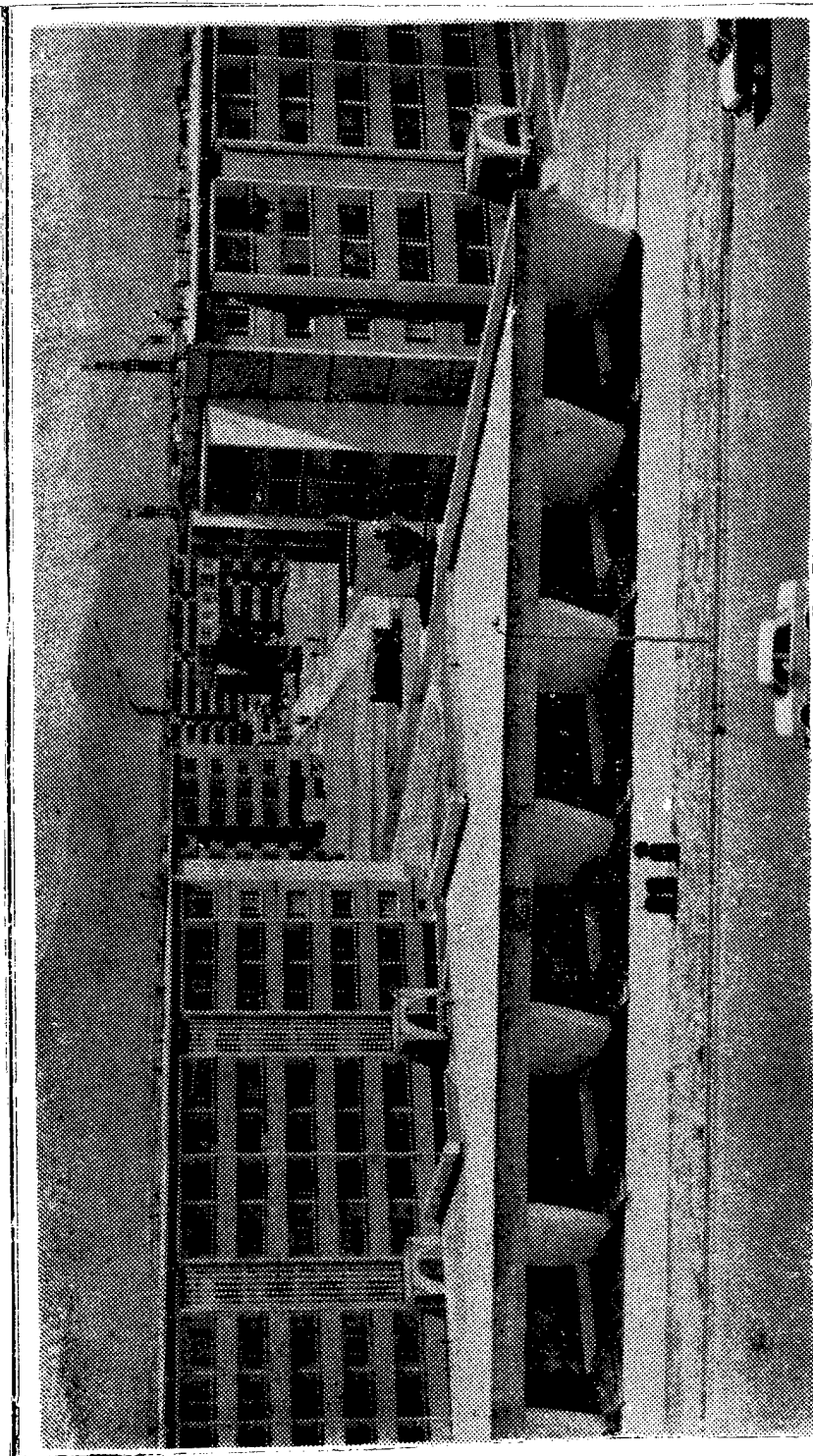
uction and construction work will increase steadily. For instance, the volume of construction in 1363 will increase from 30,000 sq metres to 51,000 sq metres.

The renovation project cost is Afs 308.7 million. Its completion ahead of schedule was made possible as a result of the extra work put in by the workers in response to the resolutions of the Seventh Plenum of the Central Committee of the PDPA", noted Eng Noorzad. The workers committed themselves, under a protocol signed with the Kabul Municipality, to complete the 24 months' work in just 18 months, he added.

The speedy completion of the project saved the Government some Afs 12 million.

Other new projects to be undertaken by the factory this Afghan year includes a new refinery and steam house for third and fourth Microrayan, supply of warm and cold water for the central heating and sewage for over 180,000 residents.

The two projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of 1361.



Works in Progress at the Third Microrayon Apartment Houses Project

CSO: 4600/506

ECONOMIC ADVANCES REPORTED IN VARIOUS SECTORS

More Agricultural Development Bank Loans

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 11 May 82 p 3

[Text]

An increase of around 99 per cent has been recorded in credits granted by the Agriculture Development Bank in Afghan year 1360 H.S. compared to the preceding year, said an ADB source to the Kabul New Times.

The bank is one of the specialised ones in the country and has always striven, in line with the revolutionary policies of the DRA, for development of agriculture and livestock-breeding. It has expanded its activities by way of distribution of short, medium and long-term credits to the individual farmers, agricultural cooperatives and agricultural industries within its financial capabilities.

The bank is willing to take firm steps for ensuring effective credit services to the farmers and livestock-ers on the basis of the Government's policies. Therefore, different departments of the bank in the capital and its branch offices in the provinces have been always in contact with the farmers, livestock-ers and

agricultural cooperatives. And it has been offering its material and technical assistance in the framework of its credit plan for utilisation of advanced agricultural methods to promote the living standard of the farmers and assist agricultural cooperatives.

In the framework of its development plan in the current year, the ADB envisages grant of 61,995 credits at a total cost of Afs 921,117,000 for tractors, water-pumps, loans for farm development and irrigation networks, viniculture, chemical fertiliser, improved wheat seeds, marketing and other purposes.

In addition to diverse credits to the farmers and agricultural cooperatives, financially ready to purchase them, the bank also sells agricultural machinery and tools in cash. The bank envisages sale of 50 tractors, numerous water-pumps, other machines and tools and spares.

The bank has as of now, 15 branch offices in the Kabul, Ghazni, Kandahar, Urozgan, Helmand, Farah,

Nimroz, Herat, Mazare Sharif, Samangan, Kunduz, Baghlan, Nangarhar, and Paktia provinces and six in the Bamian, Laghman, Faryab, Takhar, and Badghis provinces and the Khost district. The bank envisages opening of new branches in the Jauzjan province and feasibility studies have been completed. It is expected to be open in the current year after approval by the concerned authorities.

It should be recalled that the bank has also dispatched 200 employees to the districts for credit services. In connection to the third experimental operational plan of the continued

implementation of democratic land reforms in three districts (Deh Sabz, Bagrami and Chardehi), the ADB has coordinated its plans with the Agriculture and Land Reforms Ministry. It envisages grant of Afs 52 million for the chemical fertiliser, improved seeds and other agricultural implements and tools in the current Afghan year.

To promote the professional standard of its personnel, the bank has held many courses and seminars in and outside the bank. Twenty employees of the bank were graduated from the ADB basic courses last year, 96 personnel of the bank from the in-service



A Tractor Sold to a Farmer on Credit by the ADB

courses and 49 from other courses. The bank also envisages holding vocational courses for its personnel in the current year.

The graduates are employed in the bank's branch offices in the capital as well as provinces.

The ADB has also sent a number of its employees to the friendly countries for both practical and theoretical training.

Mine Surveys Increased

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 20 May 82 p 3

[Text]

The geo-engineering group of the mines survey and geology department has gone 10 per cent of its target plan in carrying out the geo-engineering part of a number of mine and industrial projects in the country in the preceding year (1360 H.S.), Eng Haji Mohammad Nawzadi, general president of the department told the Kabul New Times in an interview.

The department was established 19 years ago for exploration of solid mines so that the country could become self-sufficient in natural resources. Regular geological studies then began in Afghanistan—the important outcomes of them being the gigantic Hajigak iron mine, survey and exploration of the north coal mines, the Ainak copper mine, the borite mine, the lapis lazuli mine of Sare-Sang and Birooj and the Bakhlood mine.

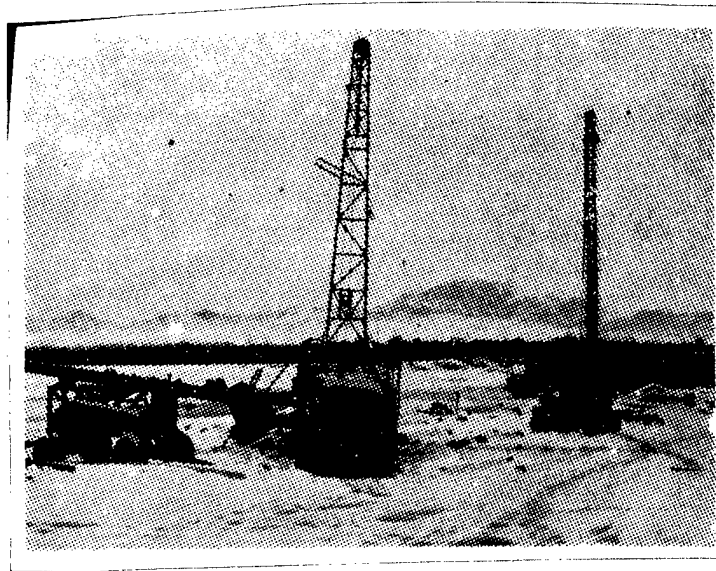
Similarly, it has carried out a general survey and exploration of the geological structure of the country.

The areas surveyed geologically and geophysically include Ainak, Kabul and its surroundings for copper and construction materials. Drilling for sampling proposes and a survey of the subterranean water have also been carried out successfully.

Eng Nawzadi added that the department carries out explorations for useful ferrous and non-ferrous materials which are good sources for the extraction projects and modern metallurgical industries in the country.

He said that the activities of the geo-engineering group in a number of the projects have been successful due to the scientifically organised plans and the organisational efficiency of the department. For instance, the group completed the geo-engineering affairs of the porcelain factory, Jangalak Factories, the Social Sciences Institute and a number of others ahead of the target plan.

He added that the development plans for future are



A hydrology study group at work in Dehdana area, Kabul.

mainly geared to the country's pressing needs, which dictate all-out geological studies.

The general directorate for geological survey, mines survey, laboratories, technical services and the like are active in the frame-

work of the mines survey and geology department with 1,916 personnel and employees. The laboratories and other departments are equipped with modern facilities for research and exploration, Eng Nowzadi affirmed.

Steps to All-around Growth

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 23 May 82 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

Ensuring well-being and prosperity for all countrymen is the long-cherished aspiration of the party and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The experiences of revolutionary movements have yielded various methods for rapid transition from backwardness to an advanced prosperous society void of extreme disparities and social contradictions. The main goal and histori-

cal objective of the national and democratic revolutions is paving the way for transition from backwardness toward all-around socio-economic development.

Building of a new society of abundance and prosperity void of national, social and class contradictions based on new, democratic and progressive practices is not possible without all-out, indefatigable endeavours for

boosting gross national income. Therefore, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the DRA Government consider rapid reactivation of the factories, the mines, industrial plants, power plants, and the transportation and communication networks all over the country, disrupted or damaged by the counter-revolution, among its priorities.

Recently we have been witness to broad measures taken in different aspects towards this end. In the industrial sector, new plants have been set up. And, by completion and commencement of the work of the extension projects of the plants already active, their production capacity has been considerably increased. The extension project of the Balkh textile mills, which was recently launched on the eve of the glorious Saur Revolution, clearly testifies to this fact. With its 533 sets of machinery, the annual production of the mills will go up from eight million metres of textiles to 20 million.

Appropriate utilisation of all resources in the country and the fresh achievements of contemporary science and technology, state planning, gradual growth of the volume of production on the basis of rapid growth of energy resources, fuel and raw material for industries, exploitation of the solid mines, new mines, oil and gas, building of petroleum refineries, exploitation of the Ainak copp-

er, the barite mine of Herat and reactivation, extension and building of other industrial plants in response to the dire and increasing needs of the country are to be undertaken soon.

Realisation of these objectives will provide us with the opportunity to rapidly forge ahead for development of the homeland and building a prosperous future.

Today, our people along with their revolutionary Government under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, vanguard of the working class and all toiling people of the country, are sincerely striving for development and advance of ever-flourishing Afghanistan.

They know that the advance and development of their backward motherland is not possible without constructive and joint efforts by all countrymen. Our people are determined to develop their homeland and render every effort for their blossoming future.

The Programme of Action of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan has entrusted us with historical, heavy duties before the homeland and the revolution and has paved the way for bright victories. In the light of this programme, we will fulfill our historical, national and social duties and responsibilities for the progress and advance of the homeland and further consolidation of the social pillars of the national and democratic Saur Revolution.

Increase in Karakul Fur Exports

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 May 82 p 3

[Interview with Abdul Qaium Noorzad, president of the Karakul Development Institute]

[Text]

The Karakul Development Institute has made a total of \$87,943,964 from the sale of 5,249,665 karakul pelts in the foreign markets during the last four years, Abdul Qaium Noorzad, acting president of the institute, told the Kabul New Times in an interview.

Karakul auctions were held in London, Leningrad and Leipzig, he said, with positive results.

The institute was established in 1345 H.S. as a non-profit institution in the framework of the Commerce Ministry for study and supervision of exports of karakul and other ornamental fur, improving the pelt processing, better sorting of the pelts, and expansion of traditional markets and exploration of new ones.

To achieve these ends, necessary measures have been taken—including employment of skilled employees for sorting and building of modern godowns for the same purpose in Kabul and other provinces. Steps have been forthcoming in the marketing sector as well—in addition to the traditional London market, the Afghan karakul pelts have been put on auction in the Leningrad and Leipzig markets as well.

In reply to a question, Noorzad said that altogether six karakul auctions were held abroad last year (three in London in September, November and Feb-

ruary, two in Leipzig on October and February and one in London), in which 1,030,423 pelts costing \$12,673,681 were sold.

Speaking on the current year's plans of the institute, Noorzad said that the auctions will be held again in London, Leipzig and Leningrad. The institute will seek new markets. It will carry out market research and sufficient publicity in the mass media.

For the export promotion, the board of directors of the institute has allocated sufficient sums. It has been decided that a number of pelts should be sent to the international designers for better designs. To maintain the credit and good reputation of the Afghan karakul, more attention will be paid to sorting of the pelts.

It has been decided that, in addition to the officials concerned with the sorting of the pelts, the cooperation of experienced and patriotic merchants will be attracted. Since the major dealers were willing for inter-sorting method, a number of pelts will be supplied to the market on an experimental basis in the current year after such sorting.

Attempts will be made for further equipping the sorting houses. The institute will take necessary measures for training skilled personnel for sorting. A number of youth will be dispatched to the Soviet Union for such training, Noorzad said.

New Agricultural Activities

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 May 82 p 2

[Text]

"The state farms department is duty-bound to raise the agricultural production level by using agricultural mechanisation", said a source of the department of the Agriculture and Land Reforms Ministry in an interview to the Kabul New Times.

The source added: "In order to implement the agricultural policy of the Government, to promote the productive forces, to liquidate the old and unjust feudal relations, and to raise the agricultural and livestock-breeding level in the country, the department was formed in 1358", in the ministry's framework.

"This department", the source said, "besides the other state and party organisations in the country, has the duty to raise the agricultural production, replace the old agricultural methods with modern agricultural machines and through the founding of state farms with mechanised agriculture, raise the employment rate parallel with the growth of production and supply enough food for the people and raw materials for industries of the country".

The source added: "Similarly, this department is obliged to familiarise practically the peasants with the modern agricultural methods, the use of agricultural machines, improved seeds, fertiliser and so on".

The department has decided to include in its long-

term plans regulation of irrigation systems, levelling and division of land into blocks, and building of warehouses, garages, stores, offices, residential areas, kindergartens, schools, clubs and other things necessary for the farms.

The department owns a total of 33,862.6 hectares of dry and irrigated farming and ranging land. This land belong to 50 farms located in 12 provinces of the country.

According to the scheduled plan, during the current Afghan year, the department has in view to set up two new farms in the Balkh province over an area of 316.6 hectares of land which will be levelled and divided into blocks, whose necessary survey and topographical maps have already been prepared. The department will build its infrastructure.

Talking of the department's activities during the last and current years, the source said that, according to the plan, out of 7,320 hectares of cultivation land which allocated for 1359-1360, 3,939.2 hectares were cultivated under the supervision of the department's personnel and the remaining land was leased to the peasants. This brought a total income of Afs 19.2 million for the Government.

For 1360-1361 H.S., the department allocated 17,722 hectares of land for cultivation, including 15,665 hectares in seven provinces,

part of which is cultivated under the supervision of the department's personnel and the rest leased to the peasants.

The department cultivates crops like wheat, barely, corn, peas, paddy rice, vetch, cotton, potato, turnip, alfalfa, melon and water melon and so on during the current year.

The number of department's employees in the capital and provinces are 772, including 125 regular and 647 contract employees.

The regular employees have high academic qualifications in different agricultural fields and have completed their education inside and outside the country. "They are working hard, enthusiastically, and honestly to serve their beloved homeland and honourable people in fulfilling their entrusted duties", the source said.

Now, the department has 80 tractors and their necessary accessories including 18 plough, 18 seed-sowing machines and other machines. "We hope the quantity of the machines presently in our possession will surely increase in the near future for better functioning of the department", the source said.

MILITARY EXPERT GIVES VIEWS, BACKGROUND ON SINAI

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic No 3002, 23 Apr 82 pp 18-21, 67

[Interview with Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin by AL-MUSAWWAR: "Conversation of the Week, With a Man Who Loves Sinai and Its Doing Research Into Its Future"; date and place not specified]

[Text] This time, we are at a loss whether to start with the man or the issue he came to us to talk about.

The issue is a gamble on the future in its entirety.

The man functions only with all of Sinai preoccupying his mind.

The man is Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin. His record shows that he spent the years of his career in the military arena, where he was in a silent dialogue with places, with lines on maps and papers; at present, he is a consultant on all attempts to reconstruct Sinai. Consequently, the gamble of Egypt's future on all Sinai is present in his mind in a concentrated fashion.

Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin came to us with a map of Sinai on his person and a pencil in hand. We had expected him to speak just from the angle of his specialization, that is, from his conception of the theater and the topography, as his whole mind has come to consist of a massive map with lines on everything in Sinai.

However, his conversation embraced the history of Sinai, Sinai's resources, man in Sinai and the future of Sinai.

He said that Egypt's future is linked to the future of Sinai. He stressed that the Sinai Alphabet was the first known alphabet in history; the ancient Egyptians carved it [on rocks], and it was then transmitted to the whole world afterwards. He said that all invasions came to Egypt from the east and that the armies that went out to defend Egypt went out from Sinai as well. He said that the mountains of Sinai give one a spiritual cast; they are a school of desert habitation that provided rulers and learned men with an education in Sinai, and history then made sharp, significant turning points.

He spoke about the problem of Taba. He said that we have gone to international arbitration but that Israel has not gone anywhere. He spoke about the reasons which have prompted Israel to haggle over the issue of Taba. He said that they wanted this issue to remain live and that Israel wanted to establish the principle of border adjustments.

On the future, he stated that the redevelopment of Sinai ought to enter into the general plan of the government, that water was the primary problem as regards the redevelopment of Sinai, that there was no escape from having a concentration of people in Sinai, that we must not repeat the mistake of having officials coming and going there or the mistake of planting people there, but that economic resources must be present, attaining their full scope. He asserted that if the Egyptians felt that there was scope for a living in Sinai, they would emigrate there at once, and that we ought to start in Sinai with projects that yield a rapid return. He passionately requested that Sinai remain alive in the Egyptian conscience: the problem is that Sinai just becomes alive in the Egyptian conscience in times of crisis.

Concerning the future, he said that a single agency should assume the redevelopment of Sinai and that there now is a division in the population among agencies in charge of redevelopment. He stated clearly that the young people are the only hope for the the redevelopment of Sinai.

Sinai was the gateway for the threat to Egypt from the east. We have no choice now but to turn the gateway of danger into a wall of safety and security. It was to that end that our conversation, which lasted 3 hours, took place with the man, in whose mind there is nothing but Sinai, the Sinai of the past, the Sinai of the present and the Sinai of the future.

AL-MUSAWWAR: We are happy that Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin has honored al-Hilal House with his presence. If I may say something brief about him, the fact is that Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin, who was a director of the military theater until recently and is now occupying the position of consultant to the Sinai Redevelopment Authority, is one of the few Egyptians who have studied Sinai inch by inch, studied its military topography, studied its people, and dealt with it on foot. On top of that, he is passionately in love with Sinai; he knows it through his work and he knows it through his heart. He is one of those who believe that the future of Egypt as a civilization is firmly tied to the future of Sinai and on that subject he has an integrated viewpoint.

We are closing in on 25 April. We have invited Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin to discuss the issue and future of Sinai both.

We consider that we should start with the situation in Taba. Why are the Israelis holding onto an area of 600 /square/ meters in this area? Can this be attributed to strategic and military motives, is it a question of an important tourist area, or do they want a precedent for border modification on the Egyptian front? We know Egypt's clear position on this subject and we know that President Mubarak has stressed the demand that every square inch be returned, but we wonder about the Israelis' intentions toward Taba.

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: I will deal with this issue in political terms, but I will deal with it from the angle of natural conditions, because everything may be attributed to the natural characteristics of the land, to Sinai's position and its local, regional and international influences. These three influences will lead us to an understanding of the issue of the borders, and we will analyze the borders so that we can see what the significance of Rafah is and what the importance of Taba is. Sinai has always been described as a piece of territory that is situated in northeastern Egypt and it is said that it has regional influence because it is part

of a single continuum that includes the Negev Desert and includes southern Jordan and the northwest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Indeed, it extends to the east Delta. This regional tie had a great influence on the course of the battles that took place on land in Sinai from the dawn of history and also on the course of human migrations in these areas. That is, in al-Sharqiyah, we find roots of populations that come from Jordan, the Negev, southern Jordan and northern Saudi Arabia. This is one important point that must be the object of our attention as we talk about the need for settlement in Sinai.

Our feelings regarding Sinai have always vacillated between indifference at times and enthusiasm at other times. After each war, we talked a great deal about the need to develop and settle Sinai. From my point of view, the expression "settlement in Sinai" means that it is an inseparable part of Egypt, a real part. The best proof of that is the Sinai Alphabet, which is the first alphabet in the world known to history. It was discovered in Sinai, where ancient Egyptians had carved it on the mountain of Sirabit al-Qadim.

These engravings consist of 27 pictures in a single form; through the study of these, the first alphabet in history was discovered.

This is the same alphabet that the Phoenicians developed and transmitted to the Romans, and it became a basis for the languages currently in use in Europe. That means that it was the inhabitants of the Nile Valley who created this Sinai Alphabet, which became the first of all the means for transmitting civilization and knowledge among the peoples of the world.

Sinai the Land of Battles and Migrations

Since ancient times Sinai's geographical location has had a direct influence on the course of human migration in these areas. The fact that it had no inhabitants made it a good conduit for military activity and armed invasions, turning it into suitable terrain for strife and combat. Perhaps the strange aspect of the invasions Egypt faced was that these invasions always came from the east and Egypt when it was invaded also turned away from the east. Perhaps the only exception occurred in World War Two, when Rommel mounted an invasion to the west of Egypt. However, he did not manage to reach the Nile Valley because of his defeat at El Alamein: should we call that coincidence or destiny? History always offers a reflection of the present. I can sketch out the present and what is happening in it by examining the historic periods that unfolded in the Sinai Peninsula. On this basis, we find that the great invasion of the Hyksos, a destructive invasion, came to Egypt from the east, and it was said that Joseph (on whom be peace) lived during that period. Therefore, there are no engraved signs of the presence of our lord Joseph in Egypt; historians have also pointed out that Joseph, on whom be peace, received his education in the village of On, which is near Heliopolis.

There were Egyptian scholars and wise men in this Egyptian village, and they made up one of the major schools of antiquity. This was the school in which Grecian and Ionian wise men studied, including Pythagoras, the originator of the theory of the right angled triangle. Joseph studied at the feet of the Egyptian wise men who were in the school of On. It also seems to me that the school for prophets was concentrated in the area bordered by Jerusalem, the Sinai Peninsula, eastern Egypt and the northwestern

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This has been the land of prophethood throughout human history. I believe that being among mountains and watercourses gives one a spiritual cast; it is this climate that opens prophets up to receiving divine revelations. It also inspires wise men to develop knowledge and wisdom. Sinai, by virtue of its nature and the fact that it is in an arid belt, and because of its calm and the forbidding nature of its mountains, has played great roles in history. Through it passed migrations of prophets and bearers of divine revelation. Through it our lord Abraham passed from Mesopotamia to Egypt to marry our lady Hagar the Egyptian and, by her, to beget Ishmael, on whom be peace, who is the father of the Arabs. In an area close to al-Salihiyah lived our lady Mary the Copt, whom the prophet of Islam married. If we put these points on a graph we will find that this is an important fact which draws one's attention. The Sinai Peninsula is not an ordinary place; a divine law was revealed there, the Messiah crossed it on his way to Egypt, and the Islamic conquest of the Nile Valley passed through it. When I link Sinai to southern Jordan and northwestern Saudi Arabia, I say that divine revelations and the prophets who were the teachers of mankind and set forth the rules for social science which emerged in religion first of all made their appearance in this territorial continuum.

A Single Theater from the Negev to al-Sharqiyah

AL-MUSAWWAR: There is almost a continuous sequence in the population between the tribes of al-Sharqiyah and the tribes of Sinai, and perhaps also the tribes of the Negev, southern Jordan and northwestern Saudi Arabia. Does that mean that a single theater extends from al-Shargiyah to the Negev?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: Undoubtedly. What happened, however, is that Sinai was a vacuum at a time when there was a region of economic attraction in the Delta, that is to say, attraction from barren areas to areas of cultivated land, especially the Nile Valley, which was the destination of many of these waves. People who say that the ancient Egyptians were of Semitic origins mixed with Hamitic elements coming from the southern Nile Valley might be right, but the passage of time, the sequence of human events and the desire to survive moved blocs of mankind toward the river. Since they were not familiar with the nature of the river, they inhabited the area east of the river and al-Salihiyah, which was called ancient Ghassan, or Goshen. They were at home in the air of the desert and were also close to the sources of water.

AL-MUSAWWAR: I believe that there are historic turning points that have had an effect on the course of Egyptian life, indeed have affected all human history more than once, in this place also.

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: History indeed stopped and changed direction in Sinai more than once; we can call these historic turning points. These turning points occurred because of the Sinai Peninsula, with the territories to which it is linked, which do not have natural barriers separating it from the Negev Desert, southern Jordan or northern Saudi Arabia, except for the Gulf of al-'Aqabah and the Gulf of Suez. While these two gulfs are obstacles, their terminuses permit the existence of a land bridge linking this single continuum, allowing it to function as a causeway for waves of migrations and invasions by armies. The Tatars were a major destructive force which came to Egypt after the Hyksos. They came from the east because the motive force of the center of human influence lay to the east. They destroyed everything in their way. They destroyed the Islamic heritage in Iraq and the Levant, they destroyed the Baghdad library, they trod Damascus underfoot and they reached Gaza.

When they got to Gaza word of their arrival reached the eastern Delta and Egypt mobilized armies which set out from al-Salihiyah under the command of Baybars. This confirms that history repeats itself, because most of our battles with Israel were launched from al-Salihiyah: the key to interpreting the future lies in the events that have occurred. The armies set forth and got into a fight with the Tatars at 'Ayn Jalut, and the Tatars were defeated after half a century of successive victories. That is an important historic turning point not just for Egypt but for the future of all mankind, because, if the Tatars had been destined to keep going, they would have destroyed the Arab heritage in Egypt and would have changed the character, traditions and customs of people, and perhaps the destruction they wrought would have extended to all of North Africa.

The second cycle was in the waves of wars of the Crusades, or the people who used the Cross as a cover. These were in actuality colonial wars, economic in motive; the wars of the Crusades were mighty ones, and the conqueror Salah-al-Din Saladdin launched them from the east, from Darb al-Shi'ri, to the region of Qal'at al-Jindi in the middle of Sinai, which still exists.

Salah-al-Din was more a moral and religious commander than a military one. He won the battle of Hittin, and that was another historic turning point. When the Crusader vanguards reached Lake al-Bardawil, the invasion was smashed there and that perhaps is the secret why Lake al-Bardawil was named for King Baldwin, the commander of the invasion. Had Baldwin managed to win, the features of the area would have changed in every respect. This was another full epoch.

Next we come to the Ottomans. When Sultan 'Uthman Ottoman took over Jerusalem, he began to set out for Egypt by way of Sinai. However, before Sultan 'Uthman, we must mention the Islamic conquest of Egypt, since that is an important turning point. When 'Amr ibn al-'As came to al-'Arish, a message reached him from the commander of the faithful, 'Umar ibn al-Khattab, telling 'Amr ibn al-'As "If you are inside the borders of Egypt, put your trust in God, and if you are not, settle for that; you must come back." 'Amr ibn al-'As was at al-'Arish. He asked if al-'Arish was part of Egypt, then put his trust in God and conquered Egypt. The Ottomans stayed in Egypt more than 700 years, and that was one of the worst of the periods Egypt experienced.

This period of time is considered to be a new historic turning point in the life of Egypt. When World War One began and the British seized the Suez Canal, there was meanwhile a relationship between the sultan in Egypt and the Ottoman regime. The British knew that war was coming and that an Ottoman-German alliance was on the way. Therefore they insisted, in the period 1905-06, on defining Sinai's Egyptian borders. Britain put pressure on the Sublime Porte and compelled him to define Egypt's eastern boundaries in Sinai. The Turks proposed that the boundary line be between al-'Arish and Ra's Muhammad, and it seems to me that the Germans were the ones who drew this map up for the Turks. However, the British insisted that the line be between Rafah and Taba.

The strange thing is that before the peace treaty the Israelis started discussing the al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line again. The important thing is that Egypt's international boundary, which appeared in the decree on the accession of 'Abbas Hilmi the Second, had been defined, and, on the basis of that, Egypt's eastern boundaries were defined as starting from Ra's al-Khirbah at Rafah and ending at Taba at the head of the Gulf

of al-'Aqabah; the matter ended with the drawing of the line over mountainous areas ending at the point of Ra's Taba.

The British held on to Taba and from that date that has been the eastern boundary of Egypt. That means that Wadi Taba is entirely on Egyptian territory.

Why Are They Holding on to Taba?

AL-MUSAWWAR: Let us come back to this question: what are the motives for the Israelis' holding on to a 600 square meter area in Taba?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: It is clear that if I bring in the Gulf of al-'Aqabah, Mount Taba and Wadi Taba and we end up in arbitration, they will not come up with anything. Because this area is naturally defined and it is technically and legally known to be Egyptian territory. Perhaps the Israelis want the Taba area for the military, developmental and psychological advantages it possesses. From the military standpoint, Taba should be considered the key to the road to the al-'Aqabah coast -- that is, one can easily reach Nuwaybi', Dhahab, and the Gulf of al-'Aqabah in less than an hour from Taba.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Does Taba have some military relationship with Eilat, if it is true that that is the key to the Gulf of al-'Aqabah?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: It is indeed the key to the road to the Gulf of al-'Aqabah, Nuwaybi' and Dhahab. On the other hand, it leads to Eilat. This is its military significance.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is the psychological reason?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: How can the Israelis leave Sinai without acquiring anything? This is what is making them lose sleep now. They got enough oil from the 'Alma field to meet their requirements, but they abandoned the oil wells, as they had abandoned the fish resources in al-Bardawil and the agricultural resources they had established in many settlements. The Israelis are trying to get some material gain, if only by taking a specific area of land. Perhaps it is also so they can acquire a precedent for modifying the border on the Egyptian front.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Can we say that Sinai was the eastern gateway to the threat to Egypt, because there was no population concentration there?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: There is no doubt that that is a strong reason. If we imagine that there had been a population concentration in Sinai along its major axes, the Israelis would not have been able to reach al-Qantarah in 6 hours.

Sharon, in a statement about 2 months ago, said "We don't want an Egyptian population concentration near the borders." In "The Diary of Sinai" which he wrote on the 6-day war [sic], Dayan said "We thought of coming down west of the Mitla Pass but when they took aerial photographs a few days before the war they found some Egyptian detachments' tents in it, and for that reason they went down east of the pass, not west of it, in order to avoid in taking human losses." In another account, he describes how he warned the troops not to enter the pass; however, they did not listen to him and entered the pass, losing 32 soldiers in less than 10 minutes.

The Passes Are the Canal's Line of Defense

AL-MUSAWWAR: Could we get an understanding of the nature of Sinai as a military theater, the nature of the entrances to it, the story of the passes, and their vital importance in defending the valley?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: I am presently preparing a study on development in Sinai. Sinai's terrain is by nature desert. Specific routes extend over it for movement; it is not open terrain. In Sinai, you find yourself limited to a group of roads that you cannot deviate from. These roads are dominated by a number of narrow passageways: if you secure the entrances to these narrow passageways with a strong defense, no one will be able to go through them. As far as the attacker goes, if he can take over these narrow passageways, that will enable him to surge on rapidly on toward the canal. Therefore the passageways are considered the land key to the canal.

Thus the line of the passes must be considered the Suez Canal's line of defense. Some people may differ with me on that, saying that that was the case before the existence of advanced weapons, but I assert that the passes are still the Suez Canal's real line of defense, for a very simple reason, which is that it is the ground forces that always ultimately determine the struggle.

Here the importance of the nature of the terrain which I have stressed stands out. Indeed, I am careful to stress this point in the War College when I analyze Sinai. I say that Sinai consists of narrow passageways and passes and is not open terrain. If an Egyptian soldier is guarding these passes closely it will be very difficult to overpower him or make him evacuate his position. This point has been made against the Israelis and they are fully aware of it. The Agramat commission formed on the 1973 war said, "You do not know how the Egyptians defend themselves." It gave the example of Umm Qatf and the armored brigade that stood firm because it was fortified there. It said that when the Egyptians hold onto a piece of terrain, they do not abandon it. This is indeed the truth of the matter. When an Egyptian soldier holds onto an area which is well defended and has been well prepared for defense, he will never abandon it.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What would you think if the Nile was brought into the Sinai Desert: would't that be an important factor in creating a population concentration, and thus reducing the possibility that it could be occupied.

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: This leads to the point I am driving at; however, if the population concentration increases, it will also be necessary to develop the resources.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How large is the population in Sinai now?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: The population in 1976 was 170,000 and it was increasing by roughly 3 percent a year from 1976 to 1982. That means that if we divide 170,000 by 61,000 square kilometers, which is the area, that will give 2.8 persons per square kilometer. However, there is another point, which is that I cannot make a numerical calculation of 61,000 square kilometers, which is three times the area of the Delta, and link that to a calculation on production, because the 61,000 square kilometers contain a collection of mountains, deserts and sand dunes. Sinai's problem is water; the water situation is difficult. How can this area be

three times the size of the Delta and yield no revenues? I say the Delta is flat level land, the immortal river passes through it, and the water here is "free of charge." Is there any country in the world which is provided water free of charge?

Should We Extend the Nile to It?

AL-MUSAWWAR: For that reason, the river must be brought in. Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: I will discuss the point of bringing the river in at a meeting with the minister of irrigation. If we bring the river in and excavate a branch for the al-Salam Canal, that will be feasible in the case of drinking water, since the population concentration is in al-'Arish. Then we must carry out soil classification work. We find that the area of sand dunes and the al-Tinah plateau are not suitable for farming. Why? They consist of flat land 1 or 2 meters below sea level; their soil is silvery since salt washes over it. There are people who say that this terrain resembles the Netherlands and nonetheless people farm that, but I say, no, The Netherlands puts up barriers along the seacoast, gets land, puts up other barriers, gets more land, and so forth, but we have not yet reached that stage, and until then it will not be possible to farm the sand dunes -- even though they are part of the figures on government farmland! It has been established through the soil classification process that determines whether or not the soil is suitable, it has been established that it is not suitable for farming now; if we construct a branch off the al-Salam Canal, the costs of excavation on sandy soil and water transportation will be extremely exorbitant. Al-'Arish has 2,500 feddans and it is expected that it will have another 2,500. Al-'Arish's wells need review because their production has started to increase; it is necessary to solve the water problem, and there are many ways to do that. One would be to pipe Nile water there, but that would be to specific places. If the water is piped to al-'Arish that will be for consumption by people, industry and tourism; as for agriculture, I do not know how we will be able to pipe it in for that.

AL-MUSAWWAR: On what assets might a population concentration be based, if population is a vital issue as far as Egypt's security goes?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: Sinai consists of sand dunes and mountains. Egyptian villages and towns were established on the shores of the river and the canals. The towns are on the shores of the river and the villages are on the edges of the canals and cannot be far away. Starting with the edge of the canal, agricultural land surrounds the villages and agricultural activity begins. This is one source of production and one source of sustenance that people seek out, and many long continuous generations have resided there. Thus water is the basis of life and population concentrations. How can we prosper when settlements generally must be based on a number of factors?

1. Water resources in Sinai are being studied. There are many studies on this subject in the Ministry of Redevelopment. How great is the volume of groundwater and how great are their different types and locations as well? These studies are currently being subjected to study.

2. Arable land acreage, agricultural activity and water quotas are being studied. Shall we give a feddan in Sinai the 8,000 cubic meters we give each feddan in the Nile Valley? That is of course out of the question. Water quotas could be reduced to half, to 4,000 cubic meters, if we use sprinkling or drip irrigation methods,

that is, guiding water use, which we must move toward rapidly after analyzing the ground and the water. If we find that the water is inadequate in that case it will be necessary to resort to other methods to increase it.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is the groundwater situation in Sinai now?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: The situation right now, in Sinai, in terms of figures, is not well defined. It is true that there have been committees, studies and American experts, but they have not come up with the precise volume of groundwater storage in Sinai or the type of water either, as has been the case in the New Valley. The procedure generally followed in exploring groundwater storage is to drill a cluster of test wells; the test wells will give an idea of water pressure and quality. After that we let the test wells sit for a long period in order to test the pressure and ascertain if it is declining or remaining constant. This process requires numerous expenses.

What Then Are the Ingredients for Settling People?

AL-MUSAWWAR: If agriculture, in accordance with the limited sources of rain, is actually not sufficient now for settling people, on what other sources might settlement be based?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: We mentioned previously that agriculture is difficult and limited. We will seek to increase it as far as possible by increasing water volumes. One of the most important projects at hand is the 30,000-feddan East Bitter Lakes Project, 4,000 feddans of which have been completed. As for other natural resources, Sinai has a group of natural resources which might help in establishing permanent habitation. We can take central Sinai and southern Sinai as an example, where there is the Mount al-Magharah complex, in which there is a coal mine. This is a mineral resource; it is mined and converted into coke, and coke enters into the manufacture of iron. There was a "German bid" to electrify north, central and south Sinai from the Mount al-Magharah power plant. If there is a power plant with a water well, you will have to build a water pipeline from the midsection of the Nile so that a community will be able to live and work in this region. Let's say that it has a population of 20,000, for example. These are some areas which I expect will have a future, and I have great hopes for them. Why? Because there is coal for electricity -- "power" -- and good land in the al-Fath and al-Masajid area. Pumping in Nile water, and hooking the Nile up to it as well, would help it at that point. From the military standpoint it is of the utmost importance. Why? Through the studies that I prepared and have endorsed, the al-Isma'iliyah gateway to invasion from the east to the west is between two mountains; if that gateway is attacked al-Isma'iliyah will fall. If the gateway to al-'Arish from west to east is spared [sic] al-'Arish will fall.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What are the other centers?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: The other centers are around Lake al-Bardawil along the northern axis, where there are fish resources. People who fish must have fishing boats and freezers available to them, as in the past; they would supply people boats free of charge. It is necessary to erect very large refrigerators to preserve fish and carry out a domestic and foreign marketing operation. I cannot imagine that Egypt, a country with more than 2,000 kilometers of coasts, cannot eat fish "free of charge." That is inconceivable. In the past Lake al-Bardawil was famous for mullet, for roe and danis. It is without a doubt a magnificent fish farm.

AL-MUSAWWAR: We have learned that there is a center of development in the north. What about the south?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: The Mount Far'un baths are one of the best of arthritis treatment centers. I asked Dr Badran, the former minister of health and the current president of the academy, "Why don't people from the Ministry of Health go and conduct an analysis?" I can assert that if they go to Sweden or Denmark and tell people to come to this area to set up "care center such-and-such" in exchange for a 10-year concession, then leave it to us, they will not waste any time. After the Mount Far'un baths there is the Abu Zanimah area, an area which is rich in manganese. For this it is necessary to set up a ferromanganese plant; one actually existed, but most unfortunately the plant was on the verge of going into operation before 1967 but was moved to the Dead Sea. It was worth 15 million pounds sterling, as I recall. Now that has risen to 150 million pounds -- we can see the difference in time between 1967 and now, and how the figure has increased 10 times over! Then we go farther down, to Abu Rudays, the area of petroleum and 'Ilwa Mal'ab, east of Abu Rudays, which is an arable area, where I can farm 200 feddans, for example, to feed the people there. Agriculture in Sinai has not assumed a pattern of intensified farming and will not be like that in the Delta.

AL-MUSAWWAR: There is the pattern the Israelis are now following in the Delta, we believe.

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: Yes, and nature has helped that. They have farmed the whole Negev in accordance with the nature of the land. This is the influence of natural and topographical features. After Abu Rudays, we go down to the Gulf of Suez.

The al-Tur area is a massive fishing and fish processing resource. The minister of redevelopment told me that he went there and found them catching fish then throwing the big fish they caught back into the sea, while people cannot get fish here! Then we say that there is a protein deficiency! Fish are not just food; from fish one can make poultry and animal fodder. Also, the economic resurgence must start with the marine resources that exist in this region, in addition to existing oil production and processing activities, in the sense that it is possible to make petrochemicals and possible to choose the petrochemical plant east of Suez, and then this axis can start to be active. After that is the Gulf of al-'Aqabah, which is all tourism, since there there are Sharm al-Shaykh, Dhahab, Nubay' [sic], and Taba in the future. After that comes St Catherine's, where there also is tourism. On the border axis you will find 'Ayn al-Judayrat, which is situated at al-Qusaymah; if you drink the water there, you will find that it is ice-cold and pure; it comes from deep underground.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Are the people working on the redevelopment from the area or from the Nile Valley?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: From the area and the valley both, although this raises a problem. I say that we will be facing a problem with the internal migration process. This problem is, where will we get new personnel? Will we get it from the population that comes from these homogeneous areas? This is an issue that needs study. Then there is the dynamic of migration. Migration started to assume a specific course recently in Egypt. Egyptian peasants always were tied to the land and did not want to leave it. Why? Because they obtained water easily. This is the problem now. Recently, because of the growing restrictions on making a

living, people have emigrated to Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Libya, what is known as the dynamic of migration has developed, and its pace has been reasonable. Now when I say that there should be migration to Sinai and I set out specific conditions for migration, everyone will go and have his own home and source of livelihood.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What is the solution to the problem of people?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: The solution to the problem of people, as I envisage it, is that the young people are the hope. That is because we will not be getting older people to emigrate. Rather, we will be relying on young people. We will give them homes with electricity, refrigerators and swimming pools. The pattern of education must change. I have been putting everyone I educate into university; they graduate from that, go into offices, sit there all day long and then complain about the low salary! They eat sandwiches, read the newspapers and are angry with the government and with the people, who do not give them any money. This pattern of life will never lead us to anything productive. Why are people worried about the population problem? They say that the population increase will destroy us! It will if we give people food without putting them to work in a productive way. In this case the increase really will destroy us, because how can we absorb this kind of increase? However, if job opportunities are available and if everyone becomes productive, the situation will change and people will become an effective, useful force. That is the good side of it.

There Must Be a Unified Plan To Build up Sinai

AL-MUSAWWAR: How much and to what extent should the population concentration needed for construction be?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: I can answer that question. I can give a figure. This figure will vary. If we sit down, 10 people together, we may come up with 10 different figures. How so? I say that the issue begins with resources: Where those are to be found, I put the population concentration, and take a step, a gradual step. Al-'Arish, for example, is spacious. Al-'Arish is a center where tourist activity or olive farming can be established. From the olives one can extract oil which is used to manufacture soap. It is possible to make estimates and calculations on al-'Arish. As for central Sinai, that has no resources: here is where the factor of national security stands out. When I begin any project, I speak about the economic factor. In the case of national security we forget the economic factor, and I cannot be definite about any numbers. Therefore I say that we must preserve "the numbers," and I say it at all levels. There are fantastic figures that have been estimated for Sinai: this is unreasonable. We must proceed step by step. In an area where I see resources, I see what the method for developing what exists there is, and after that I put in the necessary numbers.

AL-MUSAWWAR: So far no specific philosophy has governed the plan to develop Sinai. Isn't that strange? No single vision so far? Is there anything that might be called "a complete role for the Sinai issue with a comprehensive view?"

Maj Gen 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: If you mean that a unified agency with a vertical rather than horizontal organization such as the High Dam project take over the development of Sinai. An authority was created for the High Dam. That consisted of all the specialists from all the ministries; it put them in a group and labelled them the High Dam Authority, then later the Ministry of the High Dam, instead of having the

people employed on the dam belong to the Ministry of Electricity, the Ministry of Roads, ministry such-and-such, and so on and so forth. That is known as vertical organization. It is necessary to combine areas of specialization in the form of an agency, "The Sinai Organization Authority." That is one idea that has been discussed. The Sinai development budget -- roads, well drilling, electricity, development projects -- should all be in the hands of that authority.

AL-MUSAWWAR: We cannot yet speak about a unified plan for Sinai. We cannot speak about reasonable estimates. In the foreseeable future, as far as Sinai goes, we sense is that everyone will be working in areas that are separate from one another.

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: There is no real separation, because I have the opportunity to observe one thing and another. It is possible that there might be a "spatial" separation, but the people who are now studying Sinai in depth and in concentration are present in the Ministry of Redevelopment. However, this does not prevent a given university from offering research on Sinai. In general the studies are being collected in the Ministry of Redevelopment.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Isn't it strange that we haven't yet completed the studies?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: Some studies can be ongoing ones, such as research into groundwater reserves. I must not keep waiting for every study or research work to end. The studies and research works have brought me to the stage where I can begin, and where I will keep the studies and research work going on subsequently as well. The yield that has been gained as a result of the studies must be used directly in the work.

AL-MUSAWWAR: We do not believe that the Jews did not have a real feeling that they were going to stay in this area.

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: The Jews most assuredly had the desire to keep the northern strip in their hands, for the reason that they had become concentrated in the northern part between al-Shaykh Zuwayd and Rafah. Yamit was established there. Yamit was supposedly built to be a Mediterranean port and the outlet for Beersheba -- the capital of the Negev is Beersheba, and Yamit was to be its port. That was the plan that had been made for it. They did not imagine that they would be leaving this area. The shock they have had up to now is, how could they leave these areas? Why was this area chosen? It was chosen because the Egyptian army entered through this area, through the "gateway" in 1948. I remember that the Jews' line was concentrated on two gateways, Rafah and Taba. Rafah is the northern gateway through which the Egyptian army actually did enter in 1948; that is the historic route of all the invasions, and it is called "the northern route." Israel wanted to place a human concentration at this gateway in order to close the gateway. This is one of the ideas that led to the establishment of Yamit. A history of the study of Yamit shows that it was built under the auspices of the Israeli Defense Ministry. Moshe Dayan was the person who originated the idea for it. He brought in all the water experts, experts on fishing, farming and tourism, and developmental planning experts, provided a general idea and after that left them alone. He said that the capital of the Negev is Beersheba and its port is Yamit. Therefore the Algura and Ra's al-Naqab airports are alongside the border, and they helped consolidate the G line. Therefore he wanted it never to be relinquished, because he could have 3,500 feddans with advanced farming in this region. He could acquire the

Gulf of al-'Aqabah, which had great tourist resources. He wanted to have a presence on the Red Sea at Sharm al-Shaykh, but Sharm al-Shaykh is not on the Gulf of al-'Aqabah, it is on the Red Sea: the Gulf of al-'Aqabah, geographically, starts at Ra's Nasrani; he really wanted to have a presence on the Red Sea.

AL-MUSAWWAR: As far as the administrative breakdown goes, and the subject of the Governorates of North Sinai and South Sinai, mightn't the Governorate of South Sinai be deficient in assets?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: My personal opinion, which I do not want to dwell on much, is that there must be large governorates connected to the Nile Valley and the sea. I mentioned this in the development planning plan for Sinai. The borders, whether they are political, administrative, or what is known as developmental borders -- the three must coincide, and we must not favor one over the other. Sinai is now broken up into five governorates, not two: al-Isma'iliyah, Suez, Port Said, North Sinai and South Sinai. This is impossible! You talk about unifying the redevelopment agency, a vertical redevelopment agency. We say, let that be headed by a governor or be headed by an independent person who will cooperate with the governor. It must be an independent agency, so that there will not be a number of bodies there. Here I would like to stress that very many studies have been carried out. The important thing is when we will begin.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What final statement might we make on this subject? How can we acquire complete vision of the redevelopment of Sinai? How can we mobilize the country's resources for this goal? How can administrative barriers be kept from being an obstacle on this subject?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: Sinai must remain alive in the conscience of every Egyptian, because since 1948 the conscience has gone through vicissitudes, rising and falling. In 1948 there was enthusiasm over the redevelopment of Sinai. Then after that it dropped. In 1956 it rose, then dropped, after 1967. In 1973 this enthusiasm rose. It is still high.

AL-MUSAWWAR: A group of Sinai inhabitants emigrated to the Delta in 1967. Are they considered the best personnel for redeveloping Sinai?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: Indeed. They are indeed the best people for redeveloping Sinai, because they have become experts in life in the Valley, although life in Sinai differs from that, as do agriculture and agricultural methods, because of the difference in the nature of the land and water.

If we offer these people assistance, for example, some officials in the Ministry of Agriculture have informed me of studies that investigate planting sand dunes in Sinai with castor plants, since their roots grow horizontally and the stratum that is formed on the surface of the dunes by rainfall will help their growth. If castor seeds are distributed to these people, the yellow hue which stretches from al-Qantarrah to al-'Arish could be turned into green. Castor plants, in addition to their importance in stabilizing sand, sell for 300 pounds sterling a ton.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What are the behavioral and anthropological characteristics that have distinguished the inhabitants of Sinai in past years?

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: Sinai was psychologically alienated from us in past years. Up to 1967, there were three customs posts along the Suez Canal -- one post at East al-Qantarah, one post at East al-Isma'iliyah, and a post at Port Tawfiq. That meant that there was an administrative acknowledgement on the part of existing agencies -- whether they realized it or not, and most likely they did not -- that our borders stopped at those points, because it is understood that customs is situated at a country's borders. We will acknowledge that that was a mistake which we succumbed to in the past and it must be rectified now.

The purpose behind the idea of the Ahmad Hamdi tunnel is first and last a psychological link between the eastern Delta and Sinai, because it is a single region. You ask whether the population that must be situated on Sinai will consist of original inhabitants, emigrants or a mixture.

I say that some of the people who migrated to the eastern Delta must return, with the great expertise they have acquired. The new projects will require young volunteers who come from Sinai and the eastern Delta so that there can be a mixture.

AL-MUSAWWAR: There is another observation on the philosophy of developing Sinai. This is that tourist investments will be set up in most of the areas that the philosophy has identified. I say that tourist investment is not development.

Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin: There is an industry by the name of the tourist industry, and we can gain much revenue from it. We have Spain as an example.

AL-MUSAWWAR: We thank Maj Gen Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah Muhsin for this valuable contribution and for this enjoyable conversation, and I believe that the picture of Sinai has now become clear to us through this conversation. Thank you.

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SOUTH SINAI GOVERNOR DESCRIBES NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN AREA

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 29 Apr 82 p 3

[Article: "The South Sinai Governor Talks to AL-AKHBAR: The Restoration of Normal Life to Sinai"]

[Text] The restoration of normal life to the liberated areas of Sinai is the task of all Egyptian agencies. An integrated development, construction and redevelopment plan has been prepared and the necessary sums have been allocated to it. There are men whose whole mission in life now is to redevelop the peninsula that stayed under Israeli occupation for many long years, and, before that, were areas of rare resources and an enchanting natural setting that were abandoned, in spite of all the assets they contained. There, in the liberated areas of Sinai, we asked this question: what preparations have we made for the people in these liberated territories? How can the Sinai that is being returned be converted into an area attracting a population and civilization in industrial and agricultural terms?

Lt Gen Fu'ad 'Aziz Ghali, the governor of South Sinai, who is leading the task of restoring normal life to Sinai, talked about that.

Fu'ad 'Aziz Ghali said "This is the basic task, and we started it the second half of last year by gathering various information on the region as a whole. We then determined what we would buy from the Israeli party, and actually did buy tourist installations, facilities and services worth about 16.5 million pounds last December. These consist of two hotels; two tourist villages, one in Nuwaybi' and the other in Dhahab; five skin-diving areas; a school for the environment belonging to the Academy of Scientific Research to study the environment of the area; a youth center; five primary schools with a total of eight classrooms; a small hospital in Sharm al-Shaykh; four first aid stations run by nurses; four small gas stations; such small facilities as water, electricity and sanitary drainage; then rapidly-constructed housing units in Sharm al-Shaykh, Dhahab and Nuwaybi' which have buildings whose hypothetical life is over. Some Israeli citizens have (in a purely private capacity) wrecked the contents of these buildings.

"Following the purchase, last 25 February we began the phase of sending technicians in stages to take part in the process of operating and maintaining facilities and services. Starting this 15 April, we began bringing in the smallest number we were permitted to bring in in context of the agreement we had reached with Israel until the rest of the technicians and caravans flowed into the whole Gulf of al-'Aqabah area.

88 Million Pounds

"We conducted integrated planning activity and were allotted an additional budget for a period of 2 months and 5 days (up to the end of next June) of 88 million pounds to carry this out; this is 500 percent more than what we purchased from Israel, or what Israel had provided in this region in the course of 15 years. This is an urgent plan which we will begin in 2 months, and work on it will continue for 2 years.

"These millions will be used to build and redevelop this area in all fields.

"For example, we will start with roads. We will finish paving the 7-kilometer Ra's Muhammad-Sharm al-Shaykh road which floods had washed away, will pave the road from Saint Catherine to Dhahab, which is 86 kilometers long, will build a new road linking the Ra's al-Naqab road to Taba, 45 kilometers in length in a very rough area, so that the connection with the Ra's al-Naqab airport and Taba will be by a road within our Egyptian borders, and will preserve and repair the roads we have received, which the Israelis have neglected recently."

Agricultural Projects

As regards farming and self-sufficiency in food, the governor of South Sinai said "The total land that was farmed in the South Sinai area did not exceed 250 feddans, which were planted with melons and flowers in Nuwaybi'. We will reclaim an additional area which will be farmed with vegetables in Dhahab and Nuwaybi'. In Dhahab we will set up a farm to fatten poultry with a capacity of 105,000 chickens per year, in addition to a farm to produce eggs with a capacity of 1.5 million eggs per year in Dhahab. We made announcements of these projects and we have Egyptian expertise that are capable of carrying these projects out because the people of Egypt in general and the people of Sinai in particular are able to carry out these projects without resorting to any non-Egyptian expertise. In Nuwaybi' we will also establish a sheep farm with a capacity of 3,000 head as well as a farm to fatten calves with a capacity of 400 head, in two instalments, each one taking 9 months, as well as establishing a fish resource development company and a fodder plant. In this fashion, we will be achieving integration and self-sufficiency in the area. Most of these projects will be concentrated in the Dhahab area because it is midway between Sharm al-Shaykh in the far south and Nuwaybi' in the far north.

Housing Also

"Moving over to housing, we can say that we will erect headquarter and municipality buildings, such as three town councils, four village councils, police stations in the three towns and police posts in the four villages. We will build 250 administrative housing units, 50 of which will be in Taba, 25 in Wasit and Ra's Nasrani, and 50 each in Ra's Muhammad, Dhahab and Nuwaybi'. We will erect 200 ordinary and low-cost housing units, 25 in each of the four villages, 50 in Dhahab and the same number in Nuwaybi'. We will build 450 units consisting of one room and a bedouin style living room in the housing concentrations in the watercourses, in the context of bedouin settlement."

Lt Gen Fu'ad 'Aziz Ghali continued, "Transforming the towns of Sinai into modern towns once again and redeveloping and maintaining them is a harsh task which requires more time, effort and money. However, gradually, with the determination of the people of Egypt, who built the Pyramids and the High Dam and rebuilt the cities of the canal in a year, we, with God's permission, will be able to turn all of Sinai into a beautiful oasis attracting tourists, alleviating pressure on the various towns of Egypt, and offering military and political security as well as self-sufficiency in food and industry for all citizens in Egypt."

COMPREHENSIVE SINAI REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS REVIEWED

Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 24 Apr 82 p 3

[Article: "Civilian Life Returns to Sinai Tomorrow: 10 Million Pounds To Renovate Electrical Systems"]

[Text] The various government agencies will start carrying out their new projects to redevelop Sinai tomorrow, as soon as the last Israeli soldier leaves the occupied territories.

All responsible personnel have been selected for the government sectors that will start carrying out work in the towns, villages and hamlets of the Governorates of North Sinai and South Sinai and providing wherewithal for their welfare and services.

Instructions have been issued by the ministers concerned to the heads of government departments in Sinai to be at their worksites tomorrow in order to start carrying out their activities at once.

100 Percent Egyptian Electricity in Sinai

Yesterday 24 modern mobile electric generating units were moved to North and South Sinai and 100 engineers and technicians to bolster electricity and bring it up to 100 percent [of potential].

Eng Ahmad Hasan al-Ruwayni, president of the Canal Electric Distribution Company, stated that the new electric generating plant, with a capacity of 15,000 kilowatt hours, would start operating tomorrow (Sunday) to supply the areas of al-Shaykh Zuwayd, Yamit, Rafah, al-Qusaymah, al-Kuntillah and al-Tawilah, as soon as the electricity with which they are now being supplied from Israel is cut off.

In South Sinai, the Sharm al-Shaykh electric generating plant has been bolstered by new generating units with a capacity of 7,000 kilowatts; in addition, two new electric generating plants are being put into operation in the towns of Dhahab and Nuwaybi' on the Gulf of al-'Aqabah north of Sharm al-Shaykh.

An agreement has also been reached with the Israeli party to purchase the electric installations Israel erected in southern Sinai for \$2.84 million. Egyptian technicians are now helping to operate and maintain this plant.

Eng al-Ruwayni said that 10 million pounds have been allocated on an urgent basis to renovate and develop the electric power transmission and distribution systems in the

Governorates of North and South Sinai, lay new electric systems, and buy generating units for the village and housing and construction complexes that now are lacking in them. The American aid authority has also contributed a long term loan of \$6 million to this plan.

Egyptian Airports

Tomorrow the al-Naqab, Nasrani and al-Jurah airports in Sinai will begin operating with Egyptian crews belonging to the Egyptian Civil Aviation Authority at 1300 hours in the afternoon.

The aviation delegation headed by Eng Ahmad Khattab, the deputy minister and head of the Sinai airport sector, left Cairo yesterday to supervise the operation of these airports at the international levels which were mentioned in the announcement on pilots and people working in the field of civil aviation in the world as of 25 April.

So far about 200 Egyptian technicians and workers have come to the three airports from various airport operating sectors.

Two lifts have also left Almazah Airport in Cairo bringing material and equipment to operate airports, including 25 trucks. Supervising their provisionment was Capt Amin Abu al-Majd, air superintendent, who stated that they include a telecommunication lighting station for the Nasrani (Sharm al-Shaykh) airport, firefighting and first aid vehicles, water tanks, telecommunications accessories, maintenance shops, buses to transport people and workers between the airports and towns, and furniture for offices and workers' dwellings. Their costs came to about 2.5 million pounds.

An air traffic surveillance coordination agreement in the field of civil aviation was also signed by Egypt and Israel, especially with regard to the Ra's al-Naqab and Eilat airports, and traffic between the two peacekeeping regions and the Tel Aviv and Cairo regional airports in general.

42 Schools in al-'Arish and Sharm al-Shaykh

The higher education committee, under the chairmanship of Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, minister of state for education, will discuss providing the necessary education services for Sinai.

An educational complex is to be erected at Sharm al-Shaykh containing 18 classrooms and there will be a commercial secondary school at al-'Arish, 10 schools at Ra's al-Naqab, and two secondary schools in Rafah and al-Shaykh Zuwayd.

Forty-two schools containing 221 classes and accommodating 937 pupils are to be established and renovated and the schools are to be re-equipped and supplied with modern shops and laboratories. The Jalal Fahmi Technical School workshops in Shubra have prepared 8,000 school desks, which will be sent to Sinai this week.

A unified school dress is to be prepared for male and female students in Sinai, schedules are to be prepared to regulate the feeding of male and female students, and cultural, athletic and social projects are to be prepared for these schools.

The council will discuss basic curricula and educational plans for the schools in Sinai and will erect a specific specialized council for nursery and kindergarten affairs.

70 Motors for Fishermen in al-Bardawil

Fishing cooperatives in Sinai are to be stimulated to provide various types of fish, producing 100 tons a day of mullet, danis, shrimp, sea bass, macaroni [sic], sardines and red mullet to cover Sinai's requirements and export the surplus to various governorates.

The societies are the al-'Arish Society, whose activity is in the Mediterranean, the North Coast Society in Rummanah, whose activity is in al-Bardawil, and the al-Tur Society, whose activity will be in the Red Sea.

The fishermen in the North Coast Society have been given possession of 70 motors worth 500,000 pounds and the governorate has given them loans of 14,000 pounds from the Bank of Egypt and the Agricultural Development Bank in Port Said. Thirty motors worth 26,000 pounds have also been put in the possession of members of the al-'Arish Society.

Buses Direct to Sinai

The East Delta Bus Company has prepared itself to operate direct bus lines linking Cairo to Sinai starting the day after tomorrow (Monday).

Yahya al-Zayyat, board chairman of the company, stated that the bus lines would operate from Cairo to Sharm al-Shaykh, Cairo to Suez, Cairo to Rafah, Cairo to al-Tur, Cairo to Saint Catherine, and Cairo to the petroleum and mining areas at Ra's Sudr and Abu Zunaymah.

He stated that ticket reservations and embarkation would take place at the Canal Lines bus terminal in al-Qulali for the time being, until a new terminal is provided in a month in Madinat Nasr for the Sinai and Canal bus lines.

Agreement has also been reached with the management of hotel and tourist companies in Saint Catherine and Sharm al-Shaykh to give priority in space to passengers on the company's buses.

He said that two local bus systems had been drawn up inside Sinai. One, situated at al-'Arish, consists of the al-'Arish-al-Shaykh Zuwayd-Rafah, al-'Arish-Bir al-'Abd-al-Qusaymah and al-'Arish-Bir al-'Abd-al-Qantara routes.

The other, situated at al-Tur, consists of the al-Tur-Sharm-al-Shaykh-Dhahab-Nuwaybi', al-Tur-Abu Zunaymah-Saint Catherine and al-Tur-Abu Zanaymah-Sudr-al-Shatt-Suez routes.

Local and International Telephones for Sinai

Eng Ahmad Kamil, president of the Telephone Authority, stated that the authority has prepared its plan to provide local and international telephone contact in Sinai, a microwave system is now being erected in Sinai, to provide 300 telephone communications channels and there is a 30-channel system in being between al-Isma'iliyah and al-'Arish.

In South Sinai there is a microwave project to provide communications channels with Cairo, the governorates and the outer world.

Incentives for Investors

A group of productive and service projects for the development of the liberated areas of Sinai is to be included in the development plan, and projects, investors and workers in Sinai are to be given special tax and customs incentives.

Part of the American aid program and aid from the European Common Market and the World Bank are to be allocated to transforming the two governorates into areas of population attraction.

Food allocations are also to be distributed free of charge to the population, school students and people working in special projects.

The Ministry of Local Government has decided to deliver 73 items of heavy equipment to carry out service and utility projects in the two governorates and install 16 electric generators.

American Aid

Donald Brown, head of the American aid authority, stated that the 1982 program has allocated a group of grants to the two governorates of Sinai to be distributed among seven sectors:

In the manufacturing sector, \$9.9 million have been allotted to the gypsum production project at Ra's Maqlab, which is being constructed by the Sinai Manganese Company.

In the electricity sector, \$13.3 million are being allocated to erect 16 electric generators in al-'Arish, Ra's al-'Abd, Nukhayl, East Mit Abu al-Kawm, Sharm al-Shaykh, Dhahab, Rummanah and Baliz.

In the food assistance sector, \$3 million have been allotted in the form of foodstuffs to be distributed free of charge to about 70,000 returning inhabitants, students and people working in special industrial projects.

In the agricultural sector, \$270,000 have been allocated to redrill and operate irrigation wells in the town of Bir al-'Abd and \$77,000 in the form of loans to the private sector for fishing and livestock raising projects in the same town.

In the transportation sector, \$1.4 million have been allocated to equipping the al-'Arish and Saint Catherine airports.

In the sector of training and reaccréditation of the inhabitants, the two governorates have been included in al-Isma'iliyah Governorate training projects for the time being and \$2.7 million have been allocated to them.

In addition, \$5 million have been allocated to conduct a comprehensive economic survey to investigate investment opportunities and promote them among investors.

Heavy Equipment

Fu'ad Iskandar, the first deputy minister of economic cooperation, stated that the program to improve services and utilities in the governorates, which costs \$50 million,

has decided to allot 73 items of machinery to the two governorates of Sinai and that the Ministry of Local Government will actually hand them over in the next few days. These include:

Six bulldozers, four mobile electric generators, 12 drilling rigs, 13 firefighting trucks and 12 graders; the remainder are trucks, concrete mixers and so forth.

The European Market

Claus Blierbeck, head of the European Common Market office in Cairo, has declared that the European aid program for the next 4 years will include the financing of a number of agriculture and fishing projects in the two governorates, on top of projects to retrain and reaccredit the inhabitants and raise their productive capabilities.

Samir Karim, first deputy minister of economic cooperation, said the World Bank has expressed its readiness to finance any industrial or service projects in Sinai.

Isma'il Ghanim, vice chairman of the Investment Authority, said that 10 investment projects are to be presented to American and European investors and that the authority had prepared 106 projects that would be promoted at the Egyptian American investment to be held next May and the Egyptian-European investment conference to be held in Alexandria next June.

Cultural Booths for the Sinai Bedouin Populations

A group of cultural booths are to be erected among the Sinai bedouin populations containing a children's center, environmental occupations, a library, and presentations of documentary films on Egypt's accomplishments and antiquities. This was declared by Dr Samir Sirhan, the deputy minister for mass culture.

The Ministry of Culture will be erecting cultural houses in a few days in al-Shaykh Zuwayd, Sharm al-Shaykh, Rafah and the Yamit settlement.

A palace of culture has been erected in al-'Arish along with houses in Village Four, al-Nukhaylah, Bir al-'Abd and al-Rummanah in North Sinai Governorate, houses in al-Tur, Ra's Sudr, Saint Catherine, Abu Zunaymah and Abu Rudays in South Sinai Governorate, and three houses in Rafah.

Television Transmission in Rafah

Safwat al-Sharif, the minister of state for information, stated that the masses in Rafah witnessed Egyptian television transmission the day before yesterday following the startup of operation of the television transmission center in al-'Arish at full capacity.

Seaside Parks at Ra's Muhammad

The Ra's Muhammad area in Sinai will be receiving 250,000 tourists from the various countries of the world this summer.

The Ministry of Tourism has started coordinating investor's projects in the area.

'Adil Tahir, minister of tourism, stated that the area will be arranged in the form of an aquatic park outfitted with boats with glass bottoms so that people can enjoy the views of the coral reefs.

Planning has been made to establish 82 tourist areas on the Red Sea coast, six of which will be aquatic parks to be set up in the next 6 months.

Scientific Studies of Sinai Development

Next 5 May the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology and the Redevelopment Ministry will organize a cultural scientific symposium on developing Sinai and turning it into an area of population attraction.

Dr Ibrahim Badran, chairman of the academy, stated that the symposium would discuss eight subjects in the course of eight sessions, foremost among them development, redevelopment, settlement and new communities, natural and mineral resources and tourist activities.

At the conclusion of its meetings the symposium will issue recommendations in the form of studies prepared for immediate execution in an integrated framework of Sinai development and redevelopment.

Three Bank of Egypt Branches in Sinai

The Bank of Egypt will be opening three branches in the liberated areas this 26 April, in Rafah, al-Shaykh Zuwayd and Yamit, following the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

11887

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NEW SINAI SERVICES, PROJECTS REVIEWED

Cairo MAYU in Arabic No 66, 27 Apr 82 p 9

[Article: "Arteries of Life Extend over Our Restored Territories: A Complete Transportation System Covering All of Sinai"]

[Text] Beloved Sinai has returned, and the time has come for the arteries of life to extend over it, revealing the wealth and treasures it contains. The arteries are the roads and means of transportation and communications through which development will be disseminated throughout all its areas giving them life so that they may give life to the people living in them.

A Development Excursion on Roads Worth 28 Million Pounds

Eng Sulayman Mitwalli, minister of transport and communications, says that the development and reconstruction plan is primarily based on roads, since these are the main means for penetrating these tremendous areas in order to drill for oil and subterranean resources as well as to reclaim and farm land, serve industrial projects and facilitate travel to tourist areas there.

Four arteries will be laid out in the midst of the sands and rocks of the desert, representing the new roads on which construction will begin. These are:

A road from Nakhal to Ra's al-Naqab, 115 kilometers long.

A road from Ra's al-Naqab to Taba, 15 kilometers long.

A road from Ra's Muhammad to Sharm al-Shaykh, 30 kilometers long.

A road from Dhahab to Saint Catherine's Monastery, 70 kilometers.

The new arteries will not just be restricted to new roads; they will also extend to existing roads, which will be repaved, maintained and repaired to be fit for traffic.

The most important of the roads to be repaired are the 150-kilometer al-'Awjah-Abu 'Ujaylah-al-'Arish-Bir al-'Abd Road and the road from the Ahmad Hamdi Tunnel to Nakhal, which is a 110-kilometer pilgrims' road.

The sum of 28 million pounds has been allocated to the road sector to carry out the projects of reviving the arteries of Sinai. These sums will go for the purchase of equipment to maintain the roads there and also to reinstall traffic and warning signs

along the existing roads, putting the Arabic language back on the signs and signals installed on the roadsides to take the place of Hebrew signals.

Sinai's Telephones Will Be Connected to the Motherland by Modern Systems

The minister of communications says "The goal we are striving toward is to create a modern communications system that will guarantee communications between all the towns in Sinai and the main telephone network throughout the Republic, as well as to link these towns up to one another. Therefore the most suitable means of communication which are in keeping with the nature of these areas is telecommunications by use of microwave systems. Therefore 16 million pounds have been allocated through 1983 to carry out this plan in northern, central and southern Sinai.

In northern Sinai, Rafah is being hooked up to al-'Arish, Mazar, Bir al-'Abd, Baluzah, al-Qantarah and al-Isma'iliyah and a communications system is being constructed between Misfaq, al-Khirbah, Nujaylah, Rummanah, Jalbanah and al-Shaykh Zawayr.

In central Sinai, this will consist of the construction of a communications system to link al-'Awjah to al-Qusaymah, al-Kuntilla, al-Hasanah, Nakhal, al-Magharah, Bir al-Jifjafah and Sur al-Haytan. Southern Sinai will be linked up to the microwave project from Suez to al-Shatt, Ra's Sudr, Abu Zanaymah in Wadi Firan, Abu Rudays, Bala'im, Saint Catherine and the microwave at Ra's Gharib on the Red Sea will be linked to al-Tur, Sharm al-Shaykh, Jabal Shahtah, Ra's al-Naqab and Nuwaybi. In addition there will be a microwave project linking Ra's al-Nasrani to Dhahab and Ni'mah.

How, though, will the necessary communications be carried out until work on the microwave project is completed?

Eng Ahmad Kamil, chairman of the Telecommunications Authority, says "We asked Israel to keep the communications equipment it erected in Sinai until the end of this year, 1982. We refused to buy it from it since the Siemens Company that produced this equipment stopped producing it, and this would result in problems in maintaining and operating this equipment in the future. Therefore the communications equipment that is now present will be used in a temporary fashion until the end of 1982, while the lines in it will be changed to hook up with al-Naqab instead of Eilat." One of the authority's most important objectives, as its chairman says, is to bring about international and local telephone contact between Sinai and all the countries in the world.

21 Air Conditioned Buses To Serve Sinai

To provide comfortable communications to various areas in the towns of Sinai, agreement has been reached on importing 21 air-conditioned luxury buses to operate as soon as they reach the various Sinai routes. These buses will cost about 1.5 million pounds and are to be directed to operate on tourist routes.

On the operation of new routes in Sinai and international routes crossing the borders of Sinai into Israel, Mr Yahya al-Zayyat, president of the East Delta Bus Company and chairman of the Transportation Branch of the National Democratic Party, says that passenger transport services in Sinai will increase many times over in the next stage, in order to facilitate the transition and improve living conditions there. The roads

there will also form the beds for new international highways which will begin to be constructed and will cross their borders. Regarding these services, the company president says that existing service, both tourist service and regular service, will be intensified to transport more passengers.

With respect to tourist services, which are operated according to demand without specific scheduling, the vehicles allocated to that for the Cairo-Saint Catherine and Cairo-Sharm al-Shaykh excursions will be increased. The tickets on these lines will cost 6.5 pounds. An agreement has been signed between the company and the company which will operate the Sharm al-Shaykh Hotel to coordinate tourists services and transportation in Sinai. The regular routes are those which have specific schedules and a specific number of vehicles; there, service will be concentrated on three routes -- Cairo-al-Tur, Cairo-Sudr and Cairo-al-Tur-Sharm al-Shyakh.

As regards the new routes which will begin operating in accordance with the agreement on normalization of relations with Israel, these are three in number:

The coastal route, from Tel Aviv to Cairo and back.

From Eilat to Sharm al-Shaykh and back.

From the Ra's al-Naqab airport to Eilat and back.

The two Egyptian East Delta and Israeli Egged bus companies are to operate them, and revenues will be equally split between them, while each party will defray its own operating costs. The process of passport review will take place at the Rafah outlet. A new regional bus station is now being prepared at Madinat Nasr in Cairo and that will be the terminus of these new routes.

The Port of Sharm al-Shaykh in Service of Egypt's Tourism

While tourism in Egypt has many numerous ingredients for success and many areas whose history goes back to different eras starting with the beginning of history, the port of Sharm al-Shaykh will add new services to Egyptian tourism, since it will be the marine gateway to tourism in Sinai.

Eng Ahmad Hamdi, deputy minister of transportation and researcher specializing in the history of roads and natural and human life in Sinai, says that the port of Sharm al-Shaykh will receive special attention in the period to come so that its capacity may be raised to accommodate various passenger ships to serve tourist activity in the whole region. He added that the importance of this port would also increase when the road that connects it to the other towns is paved like the Sharm al-Shaykh-Ra's Muhammad road. In order for letters, parcels and so forth to arrive on time without delay, Eng Ahmad Hamdi says that the new post offices will begin service in Rafah and al-Shaykh Zuwayd in northern Sinai. In southern Sinai, a new office will be opened in Sharm al-Shaykh and new means of transport will be provided in order to make it possible to transport letters rapidly.

New Projects in North Sinai Governorate after the Withdrawal

The Governorate of Sinai has prepared an urgent plan to carry out a number of service and productive projects in the liberated areas. Work on carrying these out will start

after the termination of the Israeli presence there. Maj Gen Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, the governor of North Sinai, stated that these have been broken down into health and education services, youth, agriculture, land reclamation, education and supply projects.

The governor of North Sinai said that a sum of 27 million pounds has been allocated for the costs of these projects and distributed between central projects the governorate is carrying out in participation with its local units.

The governor of Sinai stated that these projects include the construction of a refrigerator and citrus packing plant, the construction of an improved bakery, and a 5-ton ice plant in the town of Rafah. It also included the laying of lighting systems and equipment in the liberated towns and villages and the procurement of a number of buses and minibuses to provide internal means of transportation for the citizens there.

They also include the provision of vehicles for public sanitation work including trucks and dump trucks.

The plan included the construction of two buildings, two rest houses, a market and a bath in Rafah and Shaykh Zuwayd. As far as drinking water goes, the plan includes the replacement and renovation of water systems in the Rafah, al-Shaykh Zuwayd, and Abu Tawilah areas, the construction of new systems in the Rafah, al-Shaykh Zuwayd, al-Masurah, Abu Tawilah and Qusaymah areas, the installation of well pumps there, and the construction of waterworks in the al-Kharabah, Fadd Amir, Jarradah, al-Qusaymah, Abu Tawilah, Abu 'Uwayjilah, al-Masurah, Ra's al-Naqab and al-Kuntilla areas, in addition to the cleaning out of old wells and drilling of groundwater wells.

Maj Gen Yusuf Sabri, the governor of North Sinai, said that 10 traffic posts are to be established in the Rafah, al-Shaykh Zuwayd, Abu Tawilah, al-Masurah, al-Kharub, Abu 'Umayr, Fadd Amir, Jarradah, al-Qusaymah, al-Kuntilla and Ra's al-Naqab areas and they will be provided with motorcycles and fire trucks.

The plan has also given attention to young people in the liberated areas, since it has been decided to outfit and establish clubs for young people in Rafah and al-Shaykh Zuwayd.

On housing projects, the governor said that 1,000 housing units are to be built as administrative housing - 128 administrative and 80 ordinary housing units in Rafah, 240 administrative and 120 ordinary housing units in the town of al-Shaykh Zuwayd, 90 administrative and 32 housing units in al-Qusaymah, 16 administrative units in al-Tamat, 16 administrative units in al-Kuntilla, 32 administrative units in Ra's al-Naqab, and 178 ordinary and administrative units in the other population conglomerations.

The governor of North Sinai said that agreement had been reached with the Sinai Re-development Agency to construct 140 prefabricated huts for housing and offices in the towns and villages of the liberated areas, reclaim land and drill wells there.

As far as the provision of supply commodities goes, it has been decided to construct two buildings in the towns of Rafah and al-Shaykh Zuwayd and provide four Land Rovers for the rapid transport of supply materials to the inhabitants.

It has been decided that four veterinary units will be erected in the areas of Rafah, al-Shaykh Zuwayd, al-Kharubah, and al-Qusaymah, and that they will be provided two

pickups and a tank truck. As far as health projects go, he added that two prefabricated hospitals with a capacity of 40 beds each and five health units will be erected in the liberated areas and two mobile health units and a number of trucks, tank trucks and pickups will be provided for them.

As regards projects to educate inhabitants of the liberated territories, the governor of North Sinai said that the urgent plan also includes the construction of two secondary schools for the towns of Rafah and al-Shaykh Zuwayd and two basic education schools for both in addition to 10 primary schools for the areas of al-Qusaymah, al-Kharubah, Jarradah, al-Shallaj, Naj Shabanah, Ra's al-Naqab, Abu Sinnarah and al-Muqdiyah. A media center is also to be established in Rafah and two trailers outfitted with media service equipment to provide cultural and media services to the residents.

Two post offices will be erected in Rafah and al-Shaykh Zuwayd and they will be supplied with the requisite motorcycles and vehicles to help facilitate communication between the people in the liberated areas and their relatives on the Nile Valley and to facilitate communication among them as well. Two labor offices and two vocational training centers will also be established, in Rafah and al-Shaykh Zuwayd, to train boys and young people living in the liberated areas so that they can contribute to redevelopment projects.

The plan also included the construction of two police stations in the towns of Rafah and al-Shaykh Zuwayd and seven police posts in Abu Tawilah, al-Masurah, al-Hawrah, Ra's al-Naqab, al-Qusaymah, and al-Kuntillah and the provision of a number of vehicles for them.

The East Delta Bus Company will provide eight buses and erect a garage and passenger terminal in Rafah as well as constructing a rest house and 10 stands in the liberated areas.

As far as central projects go, Maj Gen Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib said that the Civil Aviation Authority is to provide the equipment and establish an electric company, telecommunications equipment and firefighting equipment for the airports at a cost of 5,012,000 pounds. The Telecommunications Authority has also allocated 4,405,000 pounds to establish a microwave system for the areas of Rafah, al-'Arish, Mazar, Bi'r al-Sabr, Baluzah and al-Qantarrah as well as establishing a communications system in Central Sinai and an exchange in the town of Rafah and provide it with cables, wooden pylons and microwave pylons.

As regards road and bridge projects, Maj Gen Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, the governor of North Sinai, said that 4 million pounds were to be allotted for the purchase of equipment, bulldozers, tractors, cranes, asphalt mixers, spraying vehicles, steamrollers and maintenance shops for repairing main and branch roads interconnecting the liberated areas.

A tourist office is to be established in the town of al-'Arish, in Munqid al-'Awjah, to offer tourist service for excursions between Egypt and Israel.

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GIZA LOCAL COUNCIL'S PREOCCUPATION WITH SOCCER CRITICIZED

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 26 May 82 p 3

[Editorial: "The Soccer Hysteria"]

[Text]

SUPPOSE the House of Commons and the House of Lords assembled in a joint emergency session to consider an issue of crucial importance to the United Kingdom, such as the appropriate decision to adopt on the Falklands, suddenly abandoned the issue under discussion and started a heated debate on a goal scored by a team competing for the first or second division League football, and which for one reason or other was disallowed by the referee. Suppose the British media were to report the debates on both issues. What would the reaction of the British people be towards that curious shift of interest? Wouldn't they consider such a change of focus a ridiculous and an unjustifiable anticlimax?

Strange as such an introduction might appear, it serves to throw some light on the «historic» sessions held by the Giza Local Council to consider an issue of 'momentous' significance to the Egyptian nation and to adopt decision calculated to influence the destiny of generations to come. And the issue on which the Local Council had to convene in full capacity twice and on which it might have to convene three or four times more before the 'momentous' decision is adopted is no other than the controversial goal scored by Zamalek striker Hassan Shehata, during its League encounter with National Sporting Club, a goal which referee Mohamed Hussam, acting upon a signal from his assistant Abdul Aziz Abdul Raouf, deemed more advisable to disallow for off-side.

Of course the Giza Local Council deemed it more beneficial for the nation's interests to start an im-

mediate investigation of Shehata's goal and to shelve such chronic problems as the bursting of sewage pipes, the insufficiency of water supplies, the tragic shortage in flats, the poor condition of roads the lidless sewers which engulf passers-by and the insatiable mania of bus drivers to encroach on pavements and wantonly run over panicked pedestrians.

Nor was the Giza Local Council the only official body visibly shaken by the referee's decision. For ever since the match was played there has been no end of talk about the 'momentous' goal and the controversial decision. Newspapers have been reporting profusely on the results of meetings, official, semi-official and unofficial, to speculate on the behaviour of the referee and his assistant. Cables of protests have been showered on the Prime Minister to intervene in order to find a way out of the predicament. Clamorous arguments have been flaring up in streets and alleys. We have come to the end of the world. A new apocalypse is in the shaping. The Managers of Zamalek Club have been meeting in an open-ended session after announcing their decision to cancel all football activities and to withdraw from all local competitions. It is unfortune that the Security Council is not empowered to consider football fuels; for had it been so empowered, it could have been convened in an emergency session to decide on Hassan Shehata's goal. And why not ? Has it not already met to consider 'less influential' issues, as the 1967 war, the Israeli raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan ?

Had we but devoted half as much effort and attention to our most pressing economic and social problems as we are actually giving to our goalless soccer, we could by now have been a highly developed nation. It is high time this hysteria was ended.

CSO: 4500/190

TEAM TO ATTEND TOKYO FAMILY PLANNING TALKS

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 26 May 82 p 3

[Text]

EGYPT's experiences with family planning will be presented to an international conference to be held in Tokyo from June 2-22 under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Director of the Information Department at the Ministry of Health, Dr Hassan Bilal will represent Egypt at the conference, which is to be attended by the representatives of 33 Third World countries.

Discussions will focus on the information plans adopted by the developing countries to face the overpopulation problems which threaten all hopes of economic and social development.

Meanwhile the National Democratic Party Committee on Health and Family Planning yesterday urged the need for allocating more funds to public hospitals and family care centres to ensure better services for the entire po-

pulation.

This increase of funds can be partly secured by increasing the admission fees to certain hospitals and by raising the price of medicines which are now distributed free at public hospitals, in order to use the revenues for improving services to the poor.

The NDP Committee also discussed the possibility of increasing the opportunities of medical treatment through the health insurance services, the treatment in return for token prices and treatment by virtue of Medical Treatment in return for token prices and treatment by virtue of Medical Treatment Cards.

The NDP and all institutions concerned have increasingly realised the danger of overpopulation and the Ministry of Health exerts efforts to make the people more aware of this problem.

CSO: 4500/190

MASSIVE SINAI DEVELOPMENT PLAN AIRED

Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 26 May 82 p 3

[Text] The Prime Minister Dr. Fuad Mohieddin yesterday made a tour of North Sinai, during which he visited the town of Yamit destroyed by Israel before its final withdrawal from Saini last April.

During his tour, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of an administrative housing project in another town, El Sheikh Zayed, and another project to build a port at El Arish, which is estimated to cost L.E.6 million and will be completed in 4 years.

In El Arish, Dr. Mohieddin inaugurated a building to house the town's council, a freezing store with a capacity of 500 tons and a branch of the E yptian Products Company.

Addressing a popular rally marking North Sinai Day, Dr. Mohieddin stressed President Hosni Mubarak's personal interest in all the steps being taken to reconstruct Sinai.

The Prime Minnster said that the government had allocated L.E. 140 million to an urgent plan to reconstruct Sinai.

He also referred to the government's efforts in land reclamation in Sinai, saying that 11,450 feddans had already been reclaimed in North Sinai, and another 28,000 feddans would be reclaimed in the next two years

Speaking of mineral resources in Saini, Dr. Mohieddin said that the government had allocated L.E. 40 million to reoperate the Abu Zeneima ferromanaganese factory which is estimated to produce 14,000 tons of ferro-manganese per year.

The government also allocated L.E. 25 million to build a factory which is estimated to produce 300,000 tons of gypsum, the Prime Minister added.

The Prime Minister also referred to studies now underway to build a complex for the production of table salt, and two centres for training miners and electricians, as well as factories for the production of ice and bricks.

The Prime Minister spoke of two plans for the electrification of Sinai, one to be completed in 1987 and the second to be completed in 1992.

On education, the Prime Minister said that the government had allocated L.E. 2,900,00 in the 1982-1983 budget for the completion of 14 schools to accomodate 30,000 pupils in various parts of Sinai.

The government also allocated L.E. 5 million for a telecommunications network, L.E. 4 million for road projects in North Sinai and L.E. 6 million for a project helping relay second channel television programmes to Sinai.

CSO: 4500/190

FATE OF WAR-DEVASTATED AREAS OF KHUZESTAN STUDIED

Survey of Losses in Hoveizeh

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 May 82 p 2

[Editorial by S. Moadab: "In Hoveizeh and Other Places With Foreign Diplomats"]

[Text]

On the initiative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ambassadors, charge d'affaires, secretaries at different levels and especially the military attaches from more than 45 countries went today to see the demolished and heroic city of Hoveizeh, 15 kms. south west of Susangerd.

The airplane carrying the diplomats took off from Mehrabad Airport at approximately 7:50 a.m. Wednesday. In less than an hour we landed at Ahvaz in relatively hot weather. This Ahvaz I saw was not the one I had seen in Oct. 1980. In those days the roar of the Iraqi artillery bombarding the city did not stop the whole week I was there. At that time thousands of volunteers from all around Iran had come and gathered on the huge campus of Ahvaz University to be sent to stop the enemy invasion.

In those bitter and dark nights the Mobilization Forces and Irregular Forces of Dr. Mustafa Chamran tore the darkness and threw themselves toward a glorious destiny, which was martyrdom.

On the third day of my stay we decided to go to see the Iraqi tanks destroyed in the Shalamchek area in Khorramshahr. We went to check our car, provided by the then Pars News Agency at the university. In less than an hour we returned and saw more than 10 martyrs and scores injured. The story was that some Iraqi shells had been dropped on the center of a gendarmerie unit of officers and soldiers.

In those terrible days one had to circulate on bicycle in the city because it was the safest way to move. But Ahvaz today as we saw it was different. It is an active city. One had the impression of being in Tehran. No more long range artillery pounds the city and the university exists although it is devastated in places.

Hundreds of young Irregular Forces have perished and their teacher and commander, Dr. Chamran, is also no longer giving the remaining ones guidelines to show that blood is victorious over the sword. The soul of these very dear children of Islam paves the distance between the plateau of Khuzestan till Behesht-e Zahra to witness that their commander had been right in his instructions.

After a short ceremony and a still shorter speech, given by the Imam's representative in Ahvaz, we left for the city of Susangerd. I should at least underline one sentence of Hojjatoleslam Mussavi Jazayeri who said "You'll see many graveyards. They are not only ours but those which we have made according to our Islamic teachings for the Iraqi soldiers, the men Saddam had sent to be killed by lying that he defends the right of the Arab".

As we were ready to leave the airport roars were heard. This was not artillery but the heavenly call coming from hearts full of revolutionary hatred saying "Down With America. War, war till the final victory".

After 25 kms. we arrived at Hamidieh. At the entrance of this town we read "Welcome to Hamidieh, the City of Illumination and Martyrdom". We did not go into this city. In its surrounding areas we did not see one single village which was left intact by Saddam's forces and beside each such village were burned Iraqi tanks or armored personnel carries. The scene is as if nature desires to compare beauty and ugliness. The former being manifested by the bravery of our martyrs and the latter by the meanness of a ruthless enemy.

Thirty kms. from Hamidieh we arrived at Susangerd; the city Saddam once took and kept for two days. He could never enter it again, but lost tens of tanks and hundreds of mercenaries in order to show the determination of Susangerd's defenders could be overcome.

Entering the city everyone was shocked. Not only could one not understand why so many crimes had been committed but our group was stunned to see how men have created create such scenes of horror and devastation!.

Who claims that history does not repeat itself? In Susangerd we had the impression the city had been sacked

by Attila or Chenghiz Khan. Among the hundreds of devastated houses we could smell the order of martyrdom. Over the still undemolished walls, we could see the pictures of those who believed it is better to offer their lives rather than see the enemy in their homeland.

In the "governor's office", where only the portrait of Imam gave assurances that this city will be rebuilt, our Revolutionary Guard gathered us and on his small map of the liberated areas explained the tactics and strategy adopted to achieve victory..

He said "When Imam ousted Banisadr from his post of commander in chief of the armed forces we adopted a new strategy". This alarming phase gave me a headache. And that because I remembered, how in Shalamiheh, the heroes who had destroyed 17 invading tanks with their Molotov cocktails were beseeching us to report to Tehran that Banisadr was not supplying the necessary mortars and RPG7 anti-tanks weapons. Memories, like these never fade.

Concerning Banisadr it seems that with every drop of time which is passing over his life, more drops of the blood of these martyrs, who gave their life due to his calculated treachery is being added to form an infinite ocean in which the memory of his treason will last as long as this ocean continues to approach eternity.

Official List of Damages

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 23 May 82 p 4

[Statement by Foreign Ministry committee]

[Text] Tehran, May 22 (IRNA)--The following statement has been issued by the committee investigating the crimes of Saddam in Hoveizeh:

"In the name of Him, the Most High",

1. Geographical description of the town:

Hoveizeh is a principal township within the larger Susangerd Municipality in the district of Dasht-e Mishan located near the Karkheh River in Khuzestan Province. The town is about 40 kms southwest of the city of Susangerd.

Prior to the breakout of the war, the town had magnificent buildings, governmental and private, and also had several buildings of archeological value including the local mosque, the shrine of the Prophet Ibrahim Khalil, and other holy shrines. The shrines attracted thousands of pilgrims to this spot every year. The holy shrine of the Prophet Ibrahim is remarkable for

its architectural features and was a valuable historic building of the Islamic period renowned for its artistic qualities.

2. The Shrine After the Invasion of Enemy Troops

Immediately after the aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran this district was occupied by the Iraqi army and the war crimes committed here ever since its occupation by the invading enemy troops defy description.

In the wake of the struggle, the Iranian troops recently recaptured the district, and liberated it from the hands of the enemy troops. Realizing they would not be able to keep their troops in the area, the enemy ravaged and ruined government buildings and religious shrines immediately before retreating. The following is a list of some of the buildings ruined in the district by the invading enemy troops.

1. Hoveizeh Mosque.
2. The holy shrine of the Prophet Ibrahim.
3. Government buildings such as the office of the district governor, the census and statistics center, the post and telegraph center, the department of finance and the town's customs office.
4. Hoveizeh Hospital.
5. School buildings in the town.
6. Residential buildings.
7. Buildings and installations contributing to the economic life of the town.
8. Other installations of public utility.

International Law

Internationally accepted laws prohibit ruining or damaging buildings and installations in occupied areas by any army of occupation. Public property and buildings in the occupied areas may be utilized by the occupying army, but under no circumstances may these buildings or facilities be ruined by the occupying forces.

The 1899 Hague Agreement governing the customs of field wars, prohibits the ruining of buildings in the territory of conflict and the Washington Convention of 1935 also stressed the same principles. Further the 1954 Hague Convention prohibits ruining or damaging historical buildings, rehabilitation centers, artistic works as well as scientific, cultural, and educational facilities during hostilities. In short all international agreements ban ruining residential quarters and public utility buildings during hostilities, and such crimes only attest to the weakness and wickedness of the occupying army.

In response to a reminder from UNESCO which warned the Iraqi Ba'athist regime against ruining cultural buildings, the Iraqi government falsely disclaimed responsibility for the ruining of such buildings, in the town of Hoveizeh. The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, however has requested UNESCO to dispatch a delegation here in order to examine the ruins and wreckage attesting to the violation of international law by the Iraqi government. It is hoped that international organizations whose task is to investigate the war crimes committed by the Iraqi army of occupation in Iran, will do so in keeping with their commitments rather than remaining silent in implicit endorsement of such gross crimes against humanity.

Plans for Reconstruction

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 May 82 p 3

[Text]

TEHRAN, May 17 (AFP) — Reconstructing regions laid waste by the war has become almost as pressing as that of the continued fighting between Iranian and Iraqi troops which continues without any sign of a peaceful solution.

The theme of the "Refugee's Return" has become a source of inspiration for the television cameras to the same extent as the scenes of battle. The Iranian cabinet, the Supreme Council for the Economy and in-depth newspaper articles all discuss reconstruction.

Television recently showed the head of a family returning to his devastated village. He "was not expecting anybody's help" to rebuild his house, he said. Almost every day, in broadcast reports or in newspapers, there is an appeal to the public's generosity to help the war refugees.

A government spokesman announced that a "reconstruction council" is being set up and an official from the planning department said its first budget will be \$5,000 million.

"Who will pay?" is the question many people are asking, as Tehran pours its resources into a war which, according to official figures, has cost \$15,000 million up to last April.

No official reply has yet been given, but observers note that one of Tehran's invariable conditions for ending the war with Iraq is that Baghdad pay compensation for war damage. But Iranian leaders have never put a figure on it.

Kuwaiti newspapers, citing sources close to the mediators in the war from Non-Aligned countries, mention the sum of \$50,000 million.

There is no doubt that the damage from 19 months of war and occupation is considerable, particularly in the oil-rich south western province of Khuzestan where the most bitter fighting has taken place. Some Iranian sources put the damage at about \$100,000 million.

Khorramshahr, where Iraqi forces have been besieged for more than a week, was one of Iran's major commercial ports. Its twin city of Abadan, over which fierce fighting has raged but where the Iranians retain control, is one of the world's largest oil refineries.

And even though oil terminals such as Kharg and Bandar Khomeini are still operating, they have been the targets of Iraqi shells.

Further north, between the Karun River and the border with

Iraq, roads, railways, towns and villages have been particularly badly hit. The Iranian government, which organized visits to the area for diplomats or representatives from humanitarian organizations, said the region's infrastructure "has been systematically destroyed" by the Iraqi forces.

The ministry of energy has sent a party of 250 engineers and technicians to this region, where the residents who fled are now beginning to return to "rebuild and start a new life." The engineers have instructions to work day and night if need be, but to have completed the electrical system by the end of this month.

The government has announced the creation of a "reconstruction council" to coordinate efforts and to "get together to rebuild as we do to fight." The council will be made up of "representatives of revolutionary and state bodies and institutions," according to a government spokesman, who said the budget will be guaranteed "half by the government, half by the people."

"The question of reconstruction, today's most burning question, will start up an economic boom in the regions destroyed by the war, which will spread to the rest of the country, according to hopes expressed in the newspaper Etela'at.

EXPANSION OF RELATIONS WITH SOUTH YEMEN FORESEEN

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 15 May 82 p 12

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Aminian, Iran's ambassador to South Yemen]

[Text] In a special interview with our correspondent, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Aminian, the Islamic Republic of Iran's newly appointed ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, expressed his views regarding the Islamic revolution; the victories of Islamic warriors on the war fronts against the puppet regime of Iraq; his departure for South Yemen to take up his duties; Iran's relations with that country; the support of the people and government of South Yemen for the revolution, the Imam and the people of Iran; Unity between the government and people of this country, the defeat of American imperialism in the area and other matters. The text of our correspondent's interview with the newly appointed ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is as follows:

Our correspondent asked, "You have met the president of the Republic, the speaker of the Majlis and the prime minister, Can you tell us about the important problems that were discussed?"

Hojjat ol-Eslam Aminian replied, "In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful. Before answering your question, I would like to offer congratulations on the outstanding victories of the warriors of Islam in the battles of truth against falsehood. God declares in the Qoran: 'God has written that I will win; I and my messengers. God is strong and powerful.'

God has promised victory to Islam and the Muslims, and we know that God keeps his promises. That is why we witness today the outstanding victories of our dear warriors. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our dear Imam, the nation and our brave warriors on their outstanding victories and the defeat of imperialism in this area.

In our meetings, they [the president, the speaker of the Majlis and the prime minister] were of course very pleased with the establishment of relations with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and expressed their satisfaction and interest, and expressed the hope that political, economic and cultural relations with South Yemen would be extended. They expressed the hope that more delegations such as the recent one from the People's Democratic Republic

of Yemen to Iran under the leadership of the foreign minister of that country, which produced very good results, would come to Iran, so that relations between that country and Iran would be strengthened.

Another subject discussed at our meeting was that the establishment of relations with South Yemen at this conjuncture and in connection with the victories of the Islamic Republic is a very positive, constructive and beneficial event. Undoubtedly, our relationship with and presence in South Yemen is a step towards the defeat of American imperialism."

Our correspondent asked, "You were earlier in charge of the Islamic Republic of Iran's mission in the Arab Republic of North Yemen. What are your personal recollections of that country, and the attitude and relations of the people of North Yemen with the leadership and the Islamic revolution of Iran?"

The Iranian ambassador to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen replied:

"As I mentioned earlier, the Qoran promises victory to the oppressed and the Muslims. Our dear Imam has often spoken of the victory of the people over the arrogant oppressors, and has said that Islam will win; that other nations are with us, and that the United States cannot do anything. The Imam has made these statements many times. When one travels outside the country and meets other people, one finds that the people of the area and the Islamic countries of the Middle East all support Islam, as the Qoran has promised and the Imam has declared.

The fact is that the masses and nations everywhere desire the principles and the fundamental precepts of Islam because these are always aimed at benefiting the people and elevating their status.

When one goes among the people of North Yemen, one finds that, as the Imam has said, the people are with us and desire the true Islam. The oppressed people of that area want Islam to be victorious. After the victory of the Islamic revolution, I saw that the people of North Yemen paid close attention to certain problems that arose for them. Of course, we had no relations with them before the victory of the revolution because the government of North Yemen is an American colonial dependence. It is directly subordinated by the United States and Saudi Arabia politically, economically and in other ways as well. One problem that arose was that of leadership. When one is among other nations, one sees that all people seek a united leadership; the benefits that we enjoy here today are denied to them, and people are hungry for such comprehensive leadership. Whenever we spoke about the Imam in relation to any problems, and mentioned his intellectual dimension and the universality of his comprehension, the people were always surprised. They were greatly interested in learning about the Imam's grasp of spiritual, intellectual and political affairs and about his piety. Many of the students and teachers of the university wanted us to quote them statements from the Imam, so that they could utilize them for political aims. It is well known that the Imam's statements are full of political sayings and very quotable and usable. As to his grasp of social and popular affairs--he has a strong understanding of the people because he is in direct contact with them; he talks to them and for them, and is in the service of God.

The other interesting matter absorbing the attention of the people there (North Yemen) concerns the people of Iran and their unity. They were quite surprised as to how a people so much in the forefront could also be so united. The prayers we hold on Fridays in Iran, with the participation of the people even on the battlefield, does not exist anywhere else. Undoubtedly, if such a war as this had taken place in any other country and under any other form of government than the Islamic Republic, it would have resulted in defeat. The sincere relations that exist among our people are to be found nowhere else; hence, the people of Yemen support the Islamic revolution and are desirous of such a revolution themselves. I should mention here that half the population of North Yemen are Zaidi Shias, and have an ideological bond with us. Their ideas are very close to ours, and they even consider the Imam "secured by the sword" because he rose for God, overthrew a dictatorial regime, and is struggling against world oppression. They consider our Imam the successor to their Imam, and are very attached to him. I have seen myself this attachment to the Imam; whenever young people saw the Imam's picture, tears came to their eyes, and they cried. There is much to be said on this subject. The people of North Yemen said that they would like to go to Iran and serve in the armed forces, or become Guards. They wanted us to send them to the battlefield to fight for Islam. We saw them often following the war news, and they asked us to strengthen the signal of our Arabic language radio broadcasts, because the reception there of our Arabic programs is very weak. All these things show how interested oppressed people are in the Islamic revolution. I hope that the Islamic revolution will reach its final victory, and we will be able to convey to the world the voices of oppressed people everywhere, and be able to return to all deprived nations their confiscated rights."

The ambassador was asked about the relations existing between the people and the government of North Yemen. Hojjat ol-Islam Aminian replied:

"What I learned during my stay there was that there were no relations to speak of between the people and the government of North Yemen. Some time ago, we saw the Iraqi plot unfold; I am referring to Saddam's sabotage of the plane carrying the Algerian foreign minister and his party. We saw how our people did all they could for the guests. Since these people were the guests of our government and we have good relations with Algeria. The guests were coming for the sake of peace and their objective was a commendable one. We saw how our men and women cried for them when these people were killed. Here, the people and the government are one and the same; but the government of North Yemen is an American government and the people are Muslims. I noticed that the people were intensely opposed to the actions of their government. Let me cite an example: When the war-mongering government of Saddam conspired with the United States and announced that 1500 Iraqi prisoners of war were killed by the government of Iran, one of the governments that joined in this propaganda was the government of North Yemen. It put out publications and propaganda, spewed out poison, and exaggerated the affair in the mass media, saying constantly that the government of Iran, which calls itself Islamic, had killed 1500 Iraqi prisoners. But the people of North Yemen were themselves opposed to their government's action, and did not believe it, proving that a deep gulf exists between the government and the people there. Moreover, the government of North Yemen is American, has accepted

the fundamental philosophy of capitalism, and works on the basis of capitalism. That is why a number of individuals connected with the United States are in charge of affairs there. They fatten upon the wealth of the people, and suck their blood. The majority of the population is poor, oppressed, deprived and wretched."

The ambassador was asked, "Now that you are going to South Yemen, what do you regard as the most important part of your new duties, and what are your plans in that respect?"

The Iranian ambassador replied, "Before I answer your question, I would like to point out the difference between the two Yemens. There are many points of difference between the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen), and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen), even though the people of both areas are [of] the same [race]. The government of South Yemen is on friendly terms with us and supports us; whereas the government of North Yemen, even during the time of the Sultan, received the benefits of a tyrannical monarchy and in collaboration with Oman, Sultan Qabus and the puppet and buried Shah dealt cruelly with the government and people of South Yemen.

The government of South Yemen has been interested for a long time in establishing relations with us. We have many political aims in common. The government of South Yemen is among those that oppose Israel and American imperialism. It openly defies the United States and fights against it. It is also among those governments that seek a revolutionary solution to the Palestinian problem. It is one of the participants in the steadfastness Front. During my short stay in South Yemen, I found the Muslim people and the government of South Yemen to be sincere and friendly. Both the people and the government were desirous of relations with us including political and cultural relations. Naturally, my stay among these people and their government will be pleasant. I am happy to be going to a country that is against the United States and struggles against it. Undoubtedly, after our embassy is established there, political and economic relations between the two countries will be extended. We hope that in the future political, economic and cultural missions will be exchanged between the two countries and they will grow closer together." We asked, "For a long time, North and South Yemen have wished to unite or at least achieve unity in certain aspects. In your view, how can the two Yemens achieve unity, seeing that the two regimes are so entirely different?"

The Iranian ambassador to South Yemen answered, "The two governments say that they want to unite and become a single Yemen. The people also wish for the same thing, and say, 'We are one and have been one from the beginning.' You know that the problems of the North and the South are the vestiges of imperialism. In truth, all nations everywhere want to stay undivided: North and South Yemen; North and South Korea; East and West Germany; North and South Vietnam and all other nations divided by world imperialism and oppression for its own profit. Anyway, this union has not been established; in my view, it is more in the nature of a slogan."

He was asked, "Why is it that three years after the great Islamic revolution, we have just now thought of establishing relations with South Yemen; why was not the matter raised earlier? Please comment."

Hojjat ol-Islam Aminian replied, "You know that the establishment of foreign relations is the responsibility of the ministry of foreign affairs. Until a short time ago, we did not have a government embodying the line of Islam and the Imam. The ministry of foreign affairs was led by individuals like Sanjabi, Yazdi and Qotbzadeh. Our ministry of foreign affairs really started work and began to show a desire to follow the line of the Islamic revolution only after the late martyr Raja'i came to the ministry. I should mention here the oppressive acts of Bani-Sadr in this respect. He did not allow the ministry of foreign affairs to be in the hands of honest and capable individuals. The temporary government and American pawns who were in control of affairs did not want us to establish good relations with a government and people like those of South Yemen. They wanted to have strong relations with American satellites and with countries under American tutelage.

The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic, as outlined in article 151 of the Constitution, is based on certain principles among which are the refusal to accept any rule or tutelage. We support the oppressed everywhere and all movements aimed at freedom. We act on the principle stated by 'Ali (peace be on him) [the fourth Caliph]: 'We are the enemies of the oppressor and the friends of the oppressed.' We always want to remain the enemies of world tyrants and the friends and supporters of the deprived and the oppressed. We want to establish relations with all non-aggressive countries. As I mentioned before, South Yemen has been desirous of establishing relations with us for a long time. It is against American imperialism and hence we have established political relations with that country, and hope that these relations will be extended in the future."

The Iranian ambassador was asked that on the eve of his departure for the People's Democratic Republic for South Yemen, what were his feelings and what message he may have?

Aminian replied, "It is not up to a person in my position to give any messages. As the dear Imam has said, I am a servant of the people. Our duty is plain.

I am happy in one respect to be taking up my duties, and with the Grace of God, to be establishing relations with the deprived people and government of South Yemen. This in itself is an important service to our government and people. I am, in fact, a connecting link between the two governments. The happy aspect, On the other hand, I am unhappy at being away from the Imam and the people. You know that the affection that exists among our people cannot be found anywhere else. The gatherings we have here; our Friday prayers, which are not ordinary events; they are political events as well as prayer gatherings. These gatherings have directly fought against exploitation, oppression and their emanations. They awaken and inform society. It is this social awareness that is the enemy of imperialism and of the United States. Such gatherings do not exist anywhere else.

My plea to the people, the champions who are always ready to man the ramparts, is that they should always preserve their unity and cohesion, for it is only when they are united that they can defeat the conspiracies of others. An example of such conspiracy is the war imposed on us by imperialist America

through Saddam. We have seen how this conspiracy came to naught. This was the war that was started by world oppression under the leadership of the United States, and the reason for the war was that after the victory of the Islamic revolution, American profits in Iran ended. Hence, America wants to restore its unlimited interests in Iran, and to that end, it spawns new plots constantly. Fortunately, with the victory of our warriors on the battlefronts of truth against evil, the defeat of Saddam has become certain. God willing, American imperialism in the area will be forever buried. We go to restore the rights of all deprived people, especially the oppressed people of Palestine." Iran's ambassador referred in conclusion to the continuing plots of the United States in the area against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the export of revolution in a more extensive and varied form, and said in regard to the internal situation and future political conditions in Iraq:

"Since Saddam has suffered political and military defeat, and since the United States wants to preserve its interests in Iraq and the area by hook or by crook, it is seeking to remove Saddam and replace him with another pawn who would support American interests in the area. God willing, the awareness of the Muslim people of Iraq, Iran and of the area, supported by our unity and an alliance will not allow Americans to succeed in achieving this aim. The other plots hatched by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran include the encouragement of counterrevolutionary factions in the country. With the help of God, these plots also will be nullified. Naturally, our martyr-nurturing nation will not allow any plots of imperialist America to succeed, God willing.

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CSO: 4640/321

FACTORS OF VICTORY OVER IRAQIS IN KHUZESTAN REVIEWED

Iranian Military Resurgence

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 20 May 82 p 2

[Interview with Colonel Niaki, commander of Fath Headquarters]

[Text]

KHUZESTAN, Fath Headquarters, May 19 (Kayhan) — The following is highlights of a translation from an interview granted to Kayhan correspondent in the Fath Headquarters, by Colonel Niaki, the Commander of this base.

Asked to talk about the recent victories, particularly that his men were among the first group to reach the international borders, the Colonel asserting the fact, said that in the course of the second stage of the Bait-ul Muqaddas operations (the first stage of which started on April 30th with major victories), in addition to the useful cooperation of the air force and Havaniruz (the Air Support for the Ground Force), the naval combatants also had a wide cooperation in the successful operations. He added that with the aid of the naval forces, the Islamic combatants succeeded in crossing the Karun River and this enabled them to inflict fatal blows upon the aggressor troops of Saddam.

Colonel Niaki, in the continuation of the interview, said that three bases, including the Fath headquarters, were under the command of the Central Headquarters of Karbala, that is the Joint command center of the army and the IRGC. The other two

bases, Colonel Niaki said, were Nasr and Qods headquarters.

The objective of the Fath headquarters, the Colonel went on to say, was to cross the Karun River and regain the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr Road, near Gar-madasht. The operation was launched on the early hours of April 30th, said he, adding that "in the first stage of the operations we took captive some 2,077 Iraqi troops who were moved behind the fronts. Meanwhile, the 6th and 8th brigades of the Iraqi army were totally smashed."

In the second stage, Colonel Niaki said, the Fath headquarters was given the mission to be the first to reach the international borders, which mission was fulfilled successfully. "Our troops have stationed themselves in the international borders following the destruction of the 3rd armored division of the Iraqi Army.

The Army Colonel stated, in another part of the interview that the self-sacrifice and devotion of the Baseej (mobilization) and the IRGC combatants was among the important factors for the recent victories of the Iranian troops. For them, he added, fear is meaningless and in any battles they are the

pioneers.

Colonel Niaki disclosed that the Islamic combatants, during the victorious operations, with a load of 13 to 14 kgs. of equipment each, ran a distance of 27 kms. within 3 to 4 hours.

Towards the conclusion of his remarks, Colonel Niaki stated that Saddam was on the verge of

collapse and that his efforts to remain in power were futile and desperate. A sign that the Iraqi army was breathing its last moments was that due to their shortage of personnel they dispatched inexperienced or mercenary forces into the battlefields. Among the recent captives, for instance, there was a university

student who had 72 hours of military training only.

Colonel Niaki then praised the efforts of the Construction Jihad and the medical staff working in the battlefronts round-the-clock, and he also thanked religious scholars for their presence in the battlefields which encouraged the Islamic combatants highly.

Disposition of Iraqi POW's

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 23 May 82 p 8

[Text]

Over 30 thousand of the military personnel of the mercenary army of Iraq or in better words more than 30 thousand Iraqi soldiers deceived by Saddam, have been captured after surrendering to the followers of Qur'an in the land of Islam, the country of the Promised Mehdi (A.S.), the place of the lovers of Allah and the enthusiasts of the Prophet's (S.A.W.A.) Household.

The word "captive" for them, particularly in the Islamic Republic may be an alien term, for Imam Khomeini, the leader of the oppressed people of the world calls them the guests of the Muslim Ummah.

Truly, it is a mercy of God through Islam which enables even captives who have shed the blood of this nation's children just yesterday, yet now enjoy complete security and welfare under its shelter!

Should we want to discuss the way these guests of the Muslim Ummah live in their camps as well as the cultural, educational, hygienic, sport and recreative facilities that have been extended to them including the spiritual, social and political growth that they have acquired since the moment of captivity up to now, there will be much more time needed.

Is it not true that Iran is the country of the lion-hearted man of history, Imam Ali (A.S.)! And is it not right that when he was wounded with the sword stroke of Abul-Rahman Ibn-e Muljam, he told his sublime sons concerning the arrested attacker that: "Take care of Ibn-e Muljam and treat him well, give him good food and by no means should you do injustice to him, for God does not like transgressing persons!"?

Now we come to the way the guests of the Islamic Republic (captives of the mercenary Ba'athist Army) live.

After taking a census of the Iraqi POWs and making files for them, they are transferred to special camps in Tehran, Birjand, Emamgholi, Mashad and the Anzali Port.

Having arrived at the camps, they are guided to well-equipped rest houses allocated for their residence. In every camp there is usually a clinic with physicians and auxiliary nurses, a library equipped with more than a thousand volumes of books in Arabic and English, volleyball, football and basketball playgrounds, pingpong tables and several lavatories.

All kinds of facilities have been considered in the rest houses of the POWs camps. Upon the POWs' arrival in their rest houses each of them is provided with a bedstead,

mattress, blanket, sheet, pillow, plate, spoon, two suits of clothes, undershirt, warm undergarments, socks, towel, toothbrush, tooth paste, soap, detergent, sugar and tea. Every POW is given seven cigarettes from various Iranian and foreign kinds every day.

The Iraqi POWs' food is that of the Iranian army personnel which is served according to a special weekly schedule and is prepared from the best foodstuffs.

A monthly salary has also been considered for the Iraqi POWs. A senior officer gets 300 Swiss francs, a junior officer is paid 250 Swiss francs, a non-commissioned officer is offered 60 francs and a soldier gets 40 francs a month.

While the POWs are entertained

in an Islamic manner, the Iranian physicians and auxiliary nurses visit the camps once every two or three days, disinfect the rest houses and take the POWs in turn to the camps clinics for examination.

As it was mentioned, in every camp there is a special library for the interested persons to occupy their leisure time with study and research. In addition, for enlightening the POWs and helping them better understand themselves and God special classes have been held for them. In these classes various Islamic subjects such as the culture of Qur'an, the Islamic Fiqh (jurisprudence), the principles of belief, the interpretation of Qur'an, Islamic ethics and orders are taught to the enthusiastic POWs.

At least once a week the POWs take bath according to a special routine. In every camp a place has been allocated to the artworks of the POWs and necessary instruments are placed at their disposal by the Iranian brothers.

An area has been allotted in every camp for farming and facilities are extended to the POWs for planting and cultivating flowers and vegetables.

A loudspeaker installed in every rest house broadcasts the programs of the Arabic Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In addition there is a television set inside every camp whereby the POWs watch the program of the Vision of the Republic of Iran enthusiastically.

A series of daily programs are prepared for the POWs in which they gather along with their Iranian brothers and the Iraqi combatant Muslims and discuss and exchange views on various Islamic and political issues.

On Monday, of each week, the POWs offer "unity" mass prayers in their camps.

According to a coordinated plan, 200 Pows are dispatched everyday to Tehran and other cities in order to visit museums and theatres.

The Pows are allowed to participate in various ceremonies such as congregational Friday prayers, celebrations and memorial services.

The Pows are free to write two letters each month to their families in Iraq and receive the answers to their letters. The

reporters of the Arabic program of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran record the Pows' voice and messages for their families in Iraq and broadcast them regularly from the radio.

One of the Pows says in this connection that: "In spite of the horrible pressure and suffocation imposed upon the soldiers and people of Iraq, they show a daily increasing tendency to listen to the programs of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, so that the Iraqi soldiers tune in and listen to Radio Iran even in their trenches (of course if this action be revealed, the disobedient soldier is sentenced to death by the commanders of the mercenary Ba'athist army).

With the facilities which have been placed at the Pows' disposal,

they regularly publish wall newspapers which are posted on the walls of camps and read by other Pows.

At the present time, the Iraqi Pows' artworks including their paintings from the prominent religious personalities of the Islamic Republic and the spiritual leaders of Iraq are being collected in order to be displayed in a special exhibition.

The outstanding religious-political figures of Iran and the foreign guests of the Islamic Republic of Iran visit the Iraqi Pows regularly and exchange views with them.

Arabic and English newspapers and magazines are extended to the Pows every day. The personalities who have visited them so far, have expressed their surprise at the Pows' style of living, hygiene, treatment and food.

The representatives of the International Red Cross as well as the Iranian and foreign newsmen have often visited the Iraqi Pows camps in Iran and freely talked to them.

According to reports reaching here from Iraq as well as the statements of the exchanged Iranian Pows and the news and information published by international organizations the Iranian Pows are facing inhuman behavior in Iraq. They are subjected to unpaid work and forced labor. The condition of their food is very bad so that they are given a warm meal only once in a week that usually consists of dry rice or the skin of eggplant or dry bread with a cup of tea. The Iranian Pows in Iraq are permitted to go out of their rooms only for an hour every day and they use the buckets which have been placed in their rooms as toilet.

Amongst the Iraqi Pows are mercenary natives from Sudan, Eritrea, Somalis, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Nigeria, Yemen and some other countries.

The important issue which attracts the attention in the Iraqi Pows camps is the extraordinary age difference among the Pows. From a 13-year old person to a 70-year old man are seen amongst them who generally say that they have been forced to fight against Islam in spite of their unwillingness.

One of the Pows who was 13 years old said, "Since anti-Islamic rumors were spread on torturing and abuse of the Iraqi Pows in Iran, we felt great fear in our hearts, but after we came here, we

understood that we could live even more comfortably and with more welfare and peace of mind than in our own country. Now I am very happy that I have been captured by the forces of Islam. I wish the regime of Iraq would also be converted into an Islamic regime like the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Also; one of the Iraqi senior officers, expressing remorse on account of his fight against Islam and his opening fire on the Muslims who had raided the aggressors with the shout of "Allah-o-Akbar" said, "I request you Muslim brothers to convey my appeal to the commanders of the Army of Islam and tell them to give us an opportunity to take up arms and fight against Saddam and his filthy mercenaries; may be I would be able to attain in this way the contentment of God and the Prophet's (SA) House."

"The remarkable point that I witnessed in your Islamic country is the brotherly behavior overflowing with kindness and cooperation which exists between the Iranian commanders and soldiers, while this behavior can only be imagined in dreams in Iraq."

SHAH'S SISTER: 'COMMUNIST STATE' BETTER THAN 'ONE RULED BY FANATICS'

Istanbul MIDDLE EAST REVIEW in English May 82 pp 26-27

[Article by Necdet Berkand]

[Text]

The Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, twin sister of the late Shah of Iran, was one of the most beautiful of the world's famous women. Her beauty has suffered. She is 62. Her eyes are not so much sad as numb with grief. Her red hair is still fashionably and beautifully dressed and she still wears a great emerald ring. She is not happy and see no point in trying to be...

She lives on Park Avenue. Her penthouse has a garden, the great entrance hall is paved in marble with magnificent brass lamps.

She sat in the beautiful library room paneled in walnut.

— It is not just the fall of the Shah, is it? She asked, with the air of a woman who no longer cares.

— It is the destruction of my country by this mad man (Khomeini) that distressed me. The communists will use the fundamentalist right to get what they want. And then get rid of the mullahs and Ayatollah? She asked.

— Perhaps, kill them, she said.

— But in the long run, the United States and the West will suffer most for it, even more than Iran.

I ask if she foresaw then a communist state in Iran.

— This may seem hard to say. I had rather see a communist state than one ruled by religious fanatics who will return Iran to the 7th century...

The Princess worked at the United Nations for 16 years, as member of the delegation from Iran, as member and eventually Chairman of the Human Rights Commission and for seven years as head of the Iranian delegation.

She was last in Iran in August 1978. She had been attending a world Health Organization meeting in the Soviet Union and stopped in Iran to visit the Shah, with whom she has always felt the usual closeness of twins. Disorder was already mounting. The Shah insisted she leave. Since the revolution of February, 1979, she has lived in virtual seclusion in New York. She said she rarely goes out, and is now marshalling her thoughts for a third book.

Her son, Shahriar, was murdered in Paris, in December, 1979. She has refused to let him be buried except in Iran. The body is preserved until that is possible, she said.

She still can't take it in that she will never see that son again, but she accepts the fact that her family will be hounded as long as the present Iranian regime lasts.

— Only a monarchy can keep Iran united and without it many ethnic groups will come apart. I don't say it should be the Pahlavis (her own house) and perhaps it might be another. But monarchy is what Iran has known for 2500 years, and nothing else...

— I could, I suppose, have chosen a different life. A royal princess has choices. I could be living now in a beautiful quiet garden, with flowers,

and friends, not here as an exile...

— I have had three marriages and I respect no man so much as my present husband, though we live apart because I have always had to do the things that seemed important to me.

— All this talk of human rights, all this talk of the Shah's repressiveness and crimes. Where were those people when Khomeini began murdering pregnant women, thought to be adulterers, and homosexuals, said to be enemies of God?

The princess, who was not born yesterday and who understands better than most people the tangles of political intrigue over the centuries, said she is not much astonished that people jump off to new band-wagons the minute it seems expedient to do so.

Only she had expected better of America and of United Nations. Once when there were serious disturbances in Iran, Khomeini was arrested. He was let off with banishment.

— When Prime Minister Mossadegh tried to overthrow my brother, the Shah went into exile. The Shah did not seek vengeance on Mossadegh when the tide turned and the Shah was restored. Mossadegh died years later at his home in the country.

And Khomeini was spared also, even after he was arrested. The Chief of SAVAK was Gen. Hassan Pakravan, who spared Khomeini's life even after treasonable activity. That was in 1963. But when Khomeini returned one of his first actions was to execute the man who once saved his life.

Over the years, as everybody knows who wishes to know, the Shah had worked to turn Iran into a modern state. I myself worked for years for the rights of women— a Persian woman

could not even keep custody of her children if her husband died.

A man would not be punished for killing a woman if he believed she was engaged in adultery. Never mind what the true facts were, it was enough of a defense if the man believed she was in adultery.

So great advances were made in basic rights for women and I am proud of that. But this did not set well with the fundamentalist clergy. They saw their hold over people being weakened.

But they could have lived with that, all the same. What really set them against the Shah was the Shah's land reforms. The Shah began giving away his own lands in 1950.

My father left me vast lands in the north and much of it was distributed to the people in this reform.

But the Moslem clergy also controlled great lands and they bitterly resisted having it distributed to anybody. That was what did it, not the reform of laws about women.

In the land reform acts of 1963, Khomeini and others incited riots to prevent land reform. They lost, and ever since they have preached against the throne. The Shah never was fully aware of the attacks year after year by the fundamentalist clergy, who would gladly have kept Iran in the Dark Ages.

Any pretext would serve for an attack. I was a favorite target, partly because I was not only a royal princess but had worked all my life on commissions for women, and had traveled through the Third World to see how other undeveloped countries were coming into the modern world. I had opposed apartheid in South Africa and was vocal on human rights. ●

CSO: 4600/504

SUPPLY, DEMAND, STATUS OF ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS ANALYZED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 82 p 5

[Report by Minister of Power Ghafuri and TAVANIR Managing Director Karchian]

[Text] Once again, as the weather grows warm and the use of cooling equipment leads to the increased consumption of electricity, the issue of electricity and probable future power failures or shortages arises, as well as the means of dealing with them. During the past, and also during the past several years we have witnessed power failures or temporary outages many times, one of the effects of which has been extensive economic damage. If the country's electric power plants even operated at their medium capacity but in a regular way, not only would the country's electrical consumption needs be supplied, but we could always have a large amount of electrical reserve. However, the abuses and collusions of the foreign contractors and consultants who participated in building these power plants in the past worked hand in hand with the colonialistic policies of the former regime. As a result, power plants which in the view of experts have fundamental difficulties, built at enormous expense, are at the present time the most important problem for the country's electrical industry due to the type of construction and the severe dependency on foreign spare-parts. This report contains an examination of a portion of these problems so that the people will be acquainted with them, and know the reasons for electrical outages and shortages and how the problems are being dealt with.

Foreign contractors for a number of the country's half-finished power plants did not honor their obligations after the revolution and the start of the imposed war. They left their work half-completed and departed from Iran.

National economic growth depends on various factors and sectors, so that work can progress in a regular, acceptable fashion within a framework of coordination and harmony. An important portion of economic activity and expansion can be found in the production fields. Here the electric industry comes into the picture as the generator of power and the force putting the wheels in motion. Beyond the electrical power consumed in the country's industry and agriculture, electricity is always a matter of concern as a pressing requirement for round-the clock activities.

The economic damage and social injuries inflicted on society by electrical shortage or outages are very worthy of concern and study. Factory idleness, production declines, damage to equipment, and dangers to life and property are examples of the results that an electrical outage will have.

The electrical industry in our country was built during the shah's reign like many other things: on the basis of colonialistic contracts, imperialism's penetration into the production network, as well as the preservation of dependency. As an example, matters like water, electricity, weather, land, environment and fuel, which are parts of important preliminary studies for power plant construction, were not adequately considered. This occurred for various reasons, among which were dependency and the misuse and plundering of this nation's wealth. Either this happened, or during the work, due to collusion between contractors and consultants, the studies were changed in proportion to the connections between the two.

According to electricity officials, the country's basic electrical problem is the existence of power plants which were completely built by foreign companies and consortiums, in which damage to one part or the lack of it can take a lot of power out of the circuit.

As an example, the Neka power plant, which is the biggest one in the Middle East, with all the huge expenditures for its construction, has still not been completely delivered to Iran due to contractors' wrong-doing and failure to carry out commitments. Additionally, it has basic problems from the point of view of construction, type of ground, and plan. Or as another example, they built Tabriz's power plant in a place which is without water.

Power Minister's Remarks Concerning Country's Electrical Problems

At the present time there are 24 power plants with varying outputs producing electricity for the country's network. Among these power plants are those in Montazer-e Qa'em (formerly Shahryar), Esfahan, Be'sat (formerly Farahabad), Lushan, Torshat and Neka. A number of gas power plants should also be added to that list. The Mashhad and Kerman power plants are also producing electricity independently of the nationwide network. There are a number of other power plants throughout the country whose contractors have not honored their commitments due to political or war problems. They left the setting-up operations half-completed and departed from Iran. Dr Hasan Ghafari-Fard, power minister, in regard to the status of the uncompleted plants and the government's policy for completing these facilities, says: "The Ramin power plant in Ahaz is one of the country's half-finished plants. This plant's first unit was in operation prior to the war, but afterwards, due to war problems, went out of operation. Of course, its contractors have recently come and started work, and we hope that the plant's first unit will go into operation within three or four months".

"The Bandar 'Abbas plant is nearly completed, but the plant's power lines have not yet been finished. God willing, we will finish them".

"The Neka power plant also has problems which we hope will be eliminated soon. At the present time three of its four units are ready for delivery. The Neka power plant has minor faults, and we have told the contractor to eliminate them. We hope to get delivery of all four units this year".

"Another half-completed power plant is in Tabriz. Unfortunately, the contractor, which is French, has dropped work and gone. This is one of the French government's anti-human and colonialistic actions. Although it has gotten a great portion of the money for building the plant without finishing the work, it has left Iran. God willing, we will raise this issue in the United Nations and demand Iran's rights".

In the nationwide network there are 3,900 megawatts of presently generatable electrical power, which is termed instantaneous output. In the view of electrical experts, the production situation deviated from normal during the last year or two. To be exact, the consumption during the coming months and the summer cannot be predicted. Knowledge of the fuel situation, the water level in dams, and the capacity of power lines can simplify the prediction of the level of electrical consumption and production. The country's electrical consumption under current conditions is about 3,400 megawatts. This figure is maximum instantaneous usage. One should note that electrical consumption is normally at its maximum during late March and early April when lesser amounts are used due to comfortable climatic conditions. It is worthy of note that if a 10-megawatt (equivalent to 10 million watts) power plant is operating, it can light 100 thousand 100-watt light bulbs of the household sort.

Interview with TAVANIR Managing Director

According to the figures on electrical consumption from several days ago, Tehran used 1,411 megawatts, Khuzestan used 259 megawatts, Esfahan 459, the country's western region 276, Azarbaijan 229, Fars 159, Gilan 146, and one factory 38 megawatts. Production was 3,243 megawatts, and as a result, 600 megawatts were in reserve. According to the TAVANIR managing director, these figures will continue much the same until the end of May. However, when the weather gets hot, the future of 3,240 megawatts of consumption will probably rise to 3,800 megawatts. If our problems with the Neka power plant contractor are solved, we will not have any black-outs this summer. We are also very optimistic about resolving this disagreement. As has been mentioned, the breakdown of some power plants' units needing spare parts and repairs, and the appearance of technical difficulties due to mistaken calculations and exaggerated bids during the selection of power plant locations have decreased the possibility of using these power plants' total capacity.

According to the statement of Mohammad Esma'il Karchian, managing director of the TAVANIR Company, who is responsible for the production and distribution of Iran's electrical power: "During the past, a show was made of doing studies for the construction of power plants, but in practice something different emerged. As an example, during the first estimates they determined to build the Neka power plant on land that was part of 'Abdolreza Pahlavi's property. However, this power plant was later built on a spot where the existence of underground water is presently causing a problem. This is not in accordance with the preliminary studies. Furthermore, at the time when the decision to build these plants was made, their contractors and consultants had already made under-the-table deals, and the technical specifications were done up so that the factory building them either had the power plant plans from before or could very easily build them. For example, the Neka power plant's boiler regularly punctures. The boiler's specifications were previously approved by U.S. consultants, and it cannot be said that the 'Cameron' Company was weak in this regard, but rather approved it because of its collusion with the contractor".

The TAVANIR managing director, concerning the country's electrical power plants and their operational status, says: "We have a number of plants which were in operation before the revolution, like the plants at Montazer-e Qa'em, Esfahan, Be'sat, Lushan and Torshat which underwent fundamental repairs with the help of sincere colleagues and beloved workers".

"The Montazer-e Qa'em power plant possesses four 150-megawatt units, three of which are completely operational. Unit number three's motor was sent to the United States in 1978 for repairs and it is still there. Following the activities of the Algiers Agreement Office, we should get delivery of it within several months".

"The Esfahan power plant has two 37.5-megawatt units, one 120-megawatt unit, one 320-megawatt unit and a number of gas units. However, due to the fact that these units are overdue for basic repairs, the 120-megawatt unit has been taken out of operation for repairs according to the planned schedule. We got delivery of the 320-megawatt unit after it was repaired by the contractor, but at the present time it is not in operation due to a lack of need. Now only one of the 37.5-megawatt units is in operation in Esfahan, and the other one is undergoing minor repairs".

"The Be'sat power plant has three 82.5-megawatt steam units, and gas units. One unit was taken out of operation for basic repairs, and God willing, will be operational before summer. We also have two 60-megawatt turbines in this plant which we use during emergencies".

Karchian continues: "We have two 120-megawatt steam units and two 60-megawatt gas units in the Lushan power plant. The number two steam unit is in operation, and the number one unit has been out of operation for a year due to the turbine breaking. One of the gas generators is out of operation due to this same flaw, and the other one due to a difficulty. The Torshat power plant has four 12.5-megawatt steam units, two of which are always operating. The other two units have broken down because a part burned out, but the necessary spare parts are supposed to arrive in Iran in the next two months".

"Other than the old power plants, we must mention several new plants. The Neka plant has four 400-megawatt units ready. One of those units has been delivered, and the other three will remain undelivered until flaws are eliminated and negotiations held with the contractor. At the present time, unit one is in our hands, and units two and three, which are under the authority of the contractor, are in operation. We are simultaneously busy negotiating with the power plant contractor. Of course, if we stubbornly defend our position during the negotiations and demand the resolution of power plant difficulties, and the contractor reciprocates by putting the units under his control out of operation, and if there are operational problems in the other circuits, it is at that time that we will face a black-out. Currently, because the contractor has put units two and three into the circuit and our electrical generation is high, we have taken the Esfahan plant out of circuit. Through the negotiations we had with the Neka Consortium prior to Now-Ruz, it was agreed that we can use the production of the units under their authority in case of a shortage. We will pursue the talks next week, and we are extremely optimistic about the outcome".

Concerning other plants, he adds: "The Ramin power plant in Ahwaz has four 315-megawatt units, the first of which was delivered to Iran before the war. However, it is presently out of operation due to war problems. Unit two was ready to be put into operation when the contractor quit work on it due to the outbreak of the imposed war. Some work has been done on the other two units. Through pursuit of the matter, the contractors renewed their operations to complete the plant two months ago. We have four 320-megawatt units in Bandar 'Abbas, one unit of which has been delivered and is ready for operation. The remaining units are supposed to be delivered to us several months from now. The Razegan plant in Ahaz is another plant out of operation. There is another unit which has remained uncompleted due to the departure of the English contractor".

"Another important matter is the 375-megawatt Tabriz plant. The French company building it continued work at a slow pace after the revolution, and quit work after the war and left Iran. We are currently pursuing the matter. Perhaps we will complete the work through them or do it with the help of Iranian experts and the cooperation of countries like India and Yugoslavia as we did on the Razegan power plant".

Karchian adds: "Preliminary studies on the construction of a 2,000-megawatt plant in Tehran have been completed. For the first time the technical specifications are being prepared by our own engineers. It must be said that it is the first power plant to be made by Iranian design. We plan to generate 500 megawatts of this plant's power in Karaj and 1,500 megawatts in Varamin".

9597

CSO: 4640/265

IRAN

NEW VISITING REGULATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR EVIN PRISON

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Apr 82 p 13

[Text] The Central public relations office of the Public prosecutor of the Islamic Revolution has issued new visiting regulations for Evin prisoners and reminds the visitors of some points.

According to these regulations, the new schedule for Evin prisoners are as follows:

Saturday, 24 April 1982: Prisoners of Cellblocks 240 and 31 whose last names begin with "A" and end in "SH".

Sunday, 25 April 1982: Prisoners whose last names begin with "S" and end in "Y".

Monday, 26 April 1982: Prisoners of cell block 246 whose last names begin with "A" and end in "Sh".

Tuesday, 27 April 1982: Prisoners whose last names begin with "S" and end with "Y". On this day, women's Cellblock 209 may have visitors also.

Saturday, 1 May 1982: Prisoners of Cellblock 325 and 6 whose last names begin with "A" and end in "Sh".

Sunday, 2 May 1982: Prisoners whose last names begins with "S" and end with "Y".

Monday, 3 May cellblock 1 prisoners whose last names begin with "A" and ends in "Sh".

Tuesday, 4 May 1982 Cellblock 2 prisoners whose last names begin with "S" and end in "Y".

Saturday, 8 May 1982 Prisoners whose last names begin with "A" and end in "SH"

Sunday, 9 May 1982 Prisoners whose last names start with "S" and end in "Y".

Thursday 29 April and 13 May 1982, the prisoners of Forqan workshop and men's Cellblock 209 will have visitors.

Monday, 10 May 1982, Prisoners of the training center whose last names begins with "A".

Tuesday, 11 May 1982: Prisoners of the training center whose last names begin with "B" and end in "Kh".

Saturday, 15 May 1982: Prisoners of the training center whose last names begin with "Kh" and end in "Sh".

Sunday, 16 May 1982: Prisoners of the training center whose last names begin with "S" and end in "L".

Monday, 17 May 1982: Prisoners of the training center whose last names begin with "M".

Tuesday, 18 May 1982: Prisoners of the training center whose last names begin with "N" and end with "Y".

In the notice from the public relations office of the public prosecutor, it has been emphasized that the observance of new visiting hours by the visitors and family who have not yet visited the prisoners, must apply for a visiting permit. To obtain the visiting permit, the applicant must present a birth certificate with a photograph, and the women's picture must be with an Islamic outfit.

Meanwhile, the families of prisoners must take notice that the brothers and sisters of the prisoners may visit only if both parents are deceased and they must have proper documents to prove this.

According to this notice, the daily visiting hours are from 8 to 12 am.

9815

CSO: 4640/269

RECENT TRENDS IN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY REVIEWED

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 3 May 82 p 18

[Text] The lack of American participation in the construction of a new low-consumption engine for the 320 Airbus, delaying the operation to expand the Suez Canal which four Japanese companies were supposed to start before summer's end so that fully-loaded 260,000 ton tankers could easily pass through it, the floatation of the Mexican Peso since the end of last February causing its value to fall 40 percent in relation to the U.S. dollar, the warning of England's prime minister's exchequer concerning the high cost of a tunnel supposed to be excavated under the English Channel (even though the U.K. is not responsible for its construction costs), gold's 60 percent decline in price from its highest point during January 1980 to \$330 per ounce, all of these events have a common cause. Petroleum producing countries, whether OPEC countries or not, have witnessed a drop in their income, and have encountered difficulties in selling their crude oil. The recent oil price drop is due more to factors related to the general economic system rather than to events and changes.

Oil-consuming and oil-producing countries are asking themselves how long the imbalance in oil supply and demand, which determines their economic strategy, will last.

At the present time, the answers given to these questions, while contradictory are convincing to a degree. According to OPEC's statement, the amount of surplus oil existing on the spot market will quickly diminish when the growth of EEC countries returns to a more normal level of 3 to 3.25 percent. The growth rate of these countries decreased to 5 percent during the years from 1950 to 1973, and from 1972 onwards the figure fell to 2 percent. According to the statement of Nichola Sarkis, one of the most influential advisors in the Arab world, we must not forget that the crisis eras (1973-1974, 1978-1979) alternated with the periods of calm (1975-1977, 1980-1982), and this alternation will bring about the sale of excess petroleum from the end of 1982, and the daily-increasing stabilization of prices.

Of course the above statement is only a percentage forecast. Nevertheless, just as James Schlesinger says: "The current energy crisis has ended until the future energy crisis".

U.S. experts, while confirming the effects of the crisis on reducing OPEC oil sales, believe that the world balance in the energy field has been irrevocably broken for three self-reinforcing reasons.

The first factor: Oil production from non-OPEC countries, after achieving an increase to 31 percent of the market during the last 8 years, reached the level of the oil cartel's production, meaning 20 million barrels per day, at the end of 1981. The production increase for England and Norway was 8 percent, and 19.4 percent for Mexico during the same period. The large oil companies prefer to give priority to oil exploration in countries that are not OPEC members, and the Exxon Company as an example has expended 60 percent of its capital investment for exploration in such countries.

The second factor: The EEC countries have been replacing oil with non-petroleum energy such as gas, coal and nuclear energy to the tune of 2.5 percent a year for 9 years.

Will the drop in oil price cause new energy expansion plans which must be implemented in the near future to be definitely uneconomical, or will it cause a slowdown in the effort to find alternate energy sources? The International Energy Agency has warned its members against such an action.

Of course it is possible that countries which pay for oil in dollars, after considerable monetary blows, to continue their alternative energy policies in the nuclear, coal and gas fields, despite the increase in the source of their dependencies. Expansion of coal mining has ceased in the United States due to the need for huge capital investment. That country's government has made a positive forecast of the energy balance for the years 1988-89 due to expanded coal extraction. This is because coal will reduce crude oil imports to a level of 50 percent, and then following further reductions, to a level of 32 percent between the years 1973 to 1982.

The third factor: This, also the most important factor, is that the industrial countries have ended the period of great energy prodigality, and have succeeded in achieving a noticeable reduction in energy consumption. This decrease comprises 10 percent in France, 15 percent for all the EEC countries, and 40 percent for Japan. From 1973 onwards, according to the statement of Robert Latus, an economist, there is no confidence that better results can be achieved, with the exception of the United States, whose energy conservation during the last nine years has been 22 percent and whose average GNP growth rate has been at the two percent level. For example, American cars which got 13.1 miles per gallon of gasoline in 1973 will get 16 miles per gallon before the end of 1982 and 20 miles per gallon in 1990.

There is speculation about the possibility that danger will appear at any moment from the direction of the suppliers.

Not one governmental official will eliminate from his predictions the possibility of a dire event occurring in Saudi Arabia during his next five years. For a long time in the future Saudi Arabia will hold a determining role in international energy. Should it adopt a policy that will not cause

the humiliation of Middle Eastern countries, and accept the presence of the U.S. Navy in the Indian Ocean and the formation of that country's strike force (the rapid deployment force), or give an answer immediately to the Soviet Union's topical campaign in the war and peace field, just as President Kennedy showed his bravery several times? Should the West help the member countries of the Eastern Bloc common market so that they can supply their needs from Siberian gas, and during the next several years not trouble to supply their oil from the Middle East? Perhaps. But the West's policy in the energy field must give attention in the long run to two urgent and vital problems.

One is pursuing the policy of activating an oil reserve such as that which has been implemented in the United States. Oil reserves which have been accumulated inside salt domes in Texas and Louisiana now hold 250 million barrels, and will later reach 500 and 750 million barrels. During a time of peace and plenty, an oil glut will revive the wave of dangerous power of the 1960's. During those years numerous sellers strived to sell their oil to a limited number of buyers. However, during the crisis period, such reserves will enable the United States to compensate for an import reduction of 2 million million barrels per day for a year. This figure equals twice the United States' current imports from the Persian Gulf because U.S. oil imports during the last two years have decreased from 2 to 1 million barrels per day, equal to 7 percent of U.S. oil consumption or 3 percent of the country's energy needs. But such a prudent policy will not be enough if there is no comprehensive international oil energy policy, even if Europe and Japan increase the level of oil purchases by 50 percent for their reserves.

It is proposed that this problem be discussed by European leaders in the future industrial summit meeting because an immediate need is felt to achieve a suitable equilibrium between the oil consuming and producing countries. Oil exporting countries are right now experiencing the prospect of the years 1995-2000 when petroleum will have lost its power. Until that time will we witness several more crises, oil shortage and the ringing of alarm bells?

The second, vital, important problem is the establishment of peace and order in the energy field such that the OPEC countries can preserve their importing powers. Without the aforementioned countries, an inevitable struggle between the European, Japanese and American industrial companies will erupt over acquiring the existing markets, and will cause continuous worsening of the world economic recession.

Logic commands that the directionless, pointless changes in rates of profit and currency as well as the price of oil be prevented, thus blocking the outbreak of confusion in world financial and money markets.

The only way to establish stability is fixing the price of oil and stabilizing the oil price index (the choice of index will not be an insoluble problem). In this case, the price of oil must be calculated on the basis of a fair rate. Perhaps a fair rate can be quickly designated because the current price of \$25 per barrel of oil equals the barrel price of \$7 which the International Energy Organization suggested after the first energy crisis. Prices of \$25, \$28 or even \$30 per barrel do not possess very much importance. EEC

member countries must take a step in this path without ignoring capital investment for finding energy, and must also continue energy conservation and their aid to developing countries in order to expand their resources.

That which was impossible in January 1975 has become possible seven years later. This is probably the last chance of the western world to prevent the two tragedies of a great depression and financial inflation throughout the world.

From the Ministry of Islamic Guidance's Foreign Media Bulletin.

9597

CSO: 4640/303

'GRADUAL EXPULSION' OF IRANIAN STUDENTS FROM FRG REPORTED

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 May 82 p 3

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY in Bonn reported that the Prime Minister of the German state of Rheinland Pfalz announced at a press conference held in the city of Mainz that 86 Iranian students detained in this city would be deported from the Federal Republic of Germany by the end of this week after the completion of an investigation. In its news broadcast of last night, the number one German television network announced that Iranian students of several groups would be returned to their country. German newspapers also printed the above and said that the reason for deporting Iranian students in several groups is because the German government is waiting to see the reaction of the Iranian people.

On the other hand the German press sought to arouse public hostility against Muslim Iranian students and the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Bonn CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reported in connection with articles printed in the newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLEGEMEINE that the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bonn gave assurances to an aide to the Prime Minister of the state of Rheinland Pfalz that in the event the detained Muslim students were deported, German interests in Tehran would not be endangered and that the Iranian embassy would assist in the decision to deport Iranian students.

In connection with the charges made the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while refuting statements made in the newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLEGEMEINE, told the BONN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY in a press conference: Conflict among Iranian students has been going on for some time. It can be irrefutably documented that in all the conflicts the counterrevolution has imposed on our Muslim brothers, the German police and judicial officials have in some way taken the side of the counterrevolution. One of these confrontations which the counterrevolutionaries and the supporters of politically isolated terrorist groups imposed upon our brothers was the street fight of 24 April in the city of Mainz. As it was related by our Muslim brothers, after it became clear that the Mainz police were siding with the counter-revolutionary elements a group of Muslim brothers began a peaceful protest march towards the mayor's office of the city of Mainz. The Mainz' police inhumanely attacked the demonstrators, arrested them and detained them. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran added that in relation to the

recent confrontations and the police and judicial protection afforded the counterrevolutionaries, the following points are worthy of investigation:

1. Several days prior to the incident the Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran divulged the involvement of some of the major German capitalists in the recent coup d'etat plot.
2. At the same time some German publications reported the activities of the Bavarian intelligence organization in connection with helping several agents of the Shah's regime to escape immediately after Iran's Islamic revolution.
3. The brave knights of the Guards of Islam have nearly brought to a final defeat upon Saddam's mercenaries and they are going on to purge our Islamic land of the contaminating presence of world-devouring Zionist and imperialist mercenaries.

Therefore German security officials have taken these measures and blown them out of proportion enough that first, the interference of German security forces in the escape of the condemned shah's agents and the involvement of the country's capitalists in the recent coup d'etat plot would be eclipsed and blotted out, and second, under this false pretext Muslim students would be subjected to violence and slander, public opinion would be incited against the Islamic republic and the news of the victories of the Guards of Islam would be obscured.

An informed official in the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic told a JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent: to the extent that what the newspapers and news agencies have reported of the comments of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the deportation of Iranian Muslim students is true, these measures will be perceived as an action that will only serve to darken relations, and it will have a bad effect on future relations between the two countries.

Naturally the creation of limitations and inconveniences of this kind for our Muslim students will be regarded as an obstacle to the growth and expansion of future relations between the two countries and cannot go without a reaction.

9310

CSO: 4640/311

KFAED DIRECTOR REITERATES COMMITMENT TO FINANCIAL AID

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic No 37, Apr 82 pp 60-61

[Interview with Faysa al-Khalid, director general of the Kuwaiti Fund for [Arab] Economic Development [KFAED]; date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] KFAED Has Not Been Affected by the Decrease in Kuwait's Revenues.

The Arab Monetary Fund Must Strengthen the Confidence in It on the Part of the Nations Which Contribute to It.

It Was the Lack of Qualified Personnel That Put a Halt to the Establishment of More Joint Projects. Military Coup d'Etats and Changes in Economic Systems Have Not Affected the Repayment of Loans. There are Differences with the Arab Fund [for Economic and Social Development] [AFESD], and We ARE Striving Toward the Same Goal.

Political Disputes Prevent Us From Financing Regional Projects.

The decrease in Kuwait's oil revenues has prompted some people to think that Kuwait's assistance, provided via KFAED, might also decrease. However, KFAED's director general, Mr Faysal al-Khalid, in the following interview, assures us that KFAED's assistance is not being affected by the ups and downs of the Kuwaiti government's financial revenues. Why is this?

[Question] How will the decrease in oil revenues affect KFAED's situation?

[Answer] The decrease in revenues which has been a result of the world-wide oil recession will not affect either the work or objectives of KFAED. It might cause the government to delay paying in all of its capital. But even if this unlikely event occurs, KFAED will remain unaffected by the ups and downs being experienced by the public income of the Kuwaiti government. The reason for this is that KFAED's resources depend not only on the government paying in its capital. They also depend on income which comes from the repayment of loans and from capital funds which we invest wisely. This situation enables KFAED to program and execute its operations without any pressure being put on it.

[Question] Has the decrease in revenues affected KFAED's financial commitments?

[Answer] Quite the contrary. KFAED's current fiscal year (beginning in July) has been unusual in that KFAED's commitments have doubled in comparison with the averages of previous years. Its commitments have increased from an annual average ranging between \$400 million and \$450 million, covering between 58 and 65 projects.

This development is attributable to the speed with which studies of projects are completed and to the increase in requests for financing. In addition to this, there has been development and expansion in the fields of financing, which now include all of the developing countries, not only the Arab nations. Today we are [also] oriented toward the Caribbean nations and Latin America.

Areas for Which Loans Are Granted

[Question] What areas are these loans being channeled toward?

[Answer] In principle, we prefer to finance agricultural projects, infrastructure projects, and some types of industries. But recently we have begun to be oriented toward projects involving storage, transportation, electric power production, and extending electric power to rural areas, in addition to projects involving drinking water and irrigation. We are also very interested in financing projects which reach the poorer regions.

[Question] What is your assessment of the coordination between the [various] Arab funds?

[Answer] Coordination with AFESD is easy because its operations are limited to the Arab nations. Coordination with the other funds is more complicated because their sphere of activity is broad geographically speaking and in terms of types of activities. In any case, the funds meet every 6 months and review the projects which have been submitted to them. We have achieved a satisfactory degree of coordination and cooperation. In fact, right now we are attempting to standardize work procedures and methods in the funds and corporations concerned. We have come up with many agreements in this regard. We have, for example, the agreement concerning facilitating work procedures, the agreement concerning standardization of documents and methods, and the agreement dealing with exchange of information concerning the projects. We have also achieved a great deal toward bringing about joint financing.

[Question] What proportion of the loans are repaid, and are you satisfied with it?

[Answer] For the last 20 years, that is, since KFAED began functioning, we have not encountered any important problems concerning repayment of loans and concerning countries paying the loan installments which are due. The most that happens is delays in repayment--delays which are soon made up for when the economic circumstances which caused them improve. Our experience has shown us that political changes which occur in the borrower

nations have been, and still are, careful about repaying the installments of their loans. The reason for this is that if they do not do so, this means that they will lose the confidence of the financial bodies and establishments--and this is a confidence which, no doubt, is highly valued.

[Question] Which are the nations or regions which most utilize KFAED's loans?

[Answer] We do not concentrate on particular nations or regions. We do not have any geographical order of priorities other than the fact that we are interested in the nations which are the poorer ones. We do not even give precedence to the Arab nations over other nations, although 55 percent of KFAED's loans were loans taken out by Arab nations.

[Question] What are the most important problems facing KFAED?

[Answer] All of the problems which we face are easy to solve, especially when there is good will. But I could point out one important problem in the African nations, which is the fact that they lack local qualified personnel who can follow up and implement the projects. KFAED right now is attempting to help these nations to overcome these problems by providing them with technical assistance and the necessary expertise by means of financing the bringing in of experts, in addition to aid concerning the training of local personnel--aid which KFAED grants in the form of free donations in most cases.

[Question] How much does it cost to borrow from KFAED?

[Answer] The interest rates range between 0.5 percent and 5 percent--and can go as high as 7 percent--depending on the project which we finance and the borrower's financial situation. These percentages are not interest rates in the usual meaning of the term, but rather administrative expenses. The repayment period ranges between 15 and 40 years, with grace periods ranging between 3 and 10 years.

Investments in the Arab World

[Question] What is your opinion concerning the flow of investments in the Arab world?

[Answer] At the beginning of the seventies there was a good amount of investment activity in the Arab world, but during the late seventies the situation faltered due to numerous reasons which time does not allow me to mention here. But there is one point which is very important and which I would like to emphasize, and that is the fact that investors do not have clarity of vision because there are no stable policies concerning attracting capital and concerning channeling the capital toward suitable areas for investment. On the whole, a suitable climate for investment exists only to a limited degree. Incentives and [favorable] legislation are not enough. They have to be accompanied by measures which facilitate investment operations. In any case, things are improving and the experience of the seventies

and eighties has been more encouraging than was the experience of the fifties and sixties. I would like to point out that, after the success demonstrated by previous experience, Kuwaiti investors are [more] inclined to invest in some of the Arab nations.

[Question] Some people are of the opinion that the dialogue being held between the governments [of the countries] receiving the investments and the investors, concerning means of improving the investment climate, is a "dialogue of the deaf." What is your opinion.

[Answer] The fact is that there have been attempts, especially by Kuwait, to channel some Kuwaiti capital to fellow-Arab countries via establishments created for this purpose. These attempts have resulted in a constructive dialogue with the nations receiving the investments, and the results of this dialogue have generally been good. However, I would like to caution people against investing in projects--which are not as well thought-out as they should be--merely in order to show the world that the Arab nations are cooperating in the economic field. This can keep us from attaining the objective which we are striving toward.

In my opinion, Kuwait has done its due by investing in large and productive Arab projects such as the Kinanah sugar project in the Sudan and the Qalb iron project in Mauritania which is proving to be very profitable for the Mauritanian economy. Kuwaiti capital has also been invested in Yemen, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt. Of course, investment has not been made there to the degree which is needed because there is no appropriate investment climate.

Over and above this, Kuwait has tried, and is still trying, to create the corporate framework for flow of investments. During the late sixties and early seventies Kuwait took the initiative of suggesting the Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation project. Kuwait was also one of the countries which strove to implement the AFESD project.

[Question] It is said that there are differences in points of view between your organization and AFESD concerning numerous points. What are your comments concerning this?

[Answer] We have no differences with AFESD. The two funds might have different work philosophies, but they are pursuing the same goal. We are in agreement about many matters, the most important of which is that we have a lack of qualified Arab personnel needed to shoulder the responsibilities entrusted to them. Such qualified people exist, but they are scattered and spread throughout places outside the Arab world. We have confidence in KFAED's current administration. The Arab nations have also expressed their confidence in KFAED's administration by entrusting it with the financing of the Arab Development Decade projects which will cost approximately \$5 billion.

[Question] What are the reasons for the delay in the increase in the capital of the Arab Monetary Fund and AFESD?

[Answer] AFESD has renewed its [authorized] capital and raised it to 800 million Kuwaiti dinars, of which Kuwait has paid its share. But it seems that the Arab Monetary Fund has not been able to convince its contributory nations to increase its capital. The reason for this might be the Arab Monetary Fund's lack of qualified personnel who could make it more effective in carrying out its role. In any case, because of the lack of qualified personnel, I feel that it is necessary to make sure that qualified Arab personnel and expertise are available for establishing either jointly-owned or non-jointly-owned corporations and companies. It is more important to have the human element than it is to have the capital. The Arab nations have sensed that this is true, and because of this they have either stopped establishing jointly-owned corporations or slowed down their efforts in the direction of joint corporate activity.

[Question] Is KFAED oriented toward financing the private Arab sectors?

[Answer] KFAED assistance is allocated only for governments and for purely developmental projects which do not involve the private sector. However, KFAED could finance existing [private sector] projects provided that they conform to KFAED's policy which stipulates the financing of projects which are of general profit to the nations involved.

[Question] We note that you do not finance joint or regional development projects. Why is this?

[Answer] The reason is that there are so many political problems between Arab nations which obstruct the financing of these projects. For this reason we are concentrating on projects involving single countries. We should point out that there are a number of joint Arab projects which still have not been implemented and are stumbling around.

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CSO: 4404/442

INVESTMENTS AT HOME, ABROAD DISCUSSED

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic No 37, Apr 82 p 37

[Interview with Muhammad Hamud al-Muharib al-Hamud, assistant director general of operations at the Kuwait Financial Center; date and place not specified]

[Text] Al-Hammud: "Our Position Is That We Are Cautious About Requests for Loans to Finance Real Estate and Stock Transactions."

We Have Earned Profits in Spite of the Recession and Due to Our Policy of Diversification and Concentrating on Profitable Sectors.

The Kuwait Financial Center is considered to be one of the Kuwaiti investment institutions which is most active abroad. Several affiliated companies belong to it, and it is a shareholder in various companies both in the Arab world and in the rest of the world. In this interview, Mr Muhammad Hamud al-Muharib al-Hammud, the assistant director general of operations at the Center, discusses the investment situation in Kuwait and abroad and also discusses the Center's investment policy as well as the results of the business which it conducted during 1981.

[Question] In your opinion, what have been the most important recent developments in the field of both Kuwait and foreign investment?

[Answer] Last year, generally speaking, was a year of economic recession and a year of political and monetary turbulence. This, of course, had its affect on international investment activity, especially in the sector of bonds. The continuation of the recession in the West, along with the great increase in interest rates on the dollar, affected the activity of buying and selling bonds, especially those which were offered in certain currencies or which paid fixed rates of interest. The bond-issuing establishments attempted to stimulate the market by introducing bonds paying higher interest rates, or bonds having floating interest rates. Also, there was an expansion in transactions involving debenture bonds which are convertible into stocks.

As far as Kuwait was concerned, the chief event in 1981 was the fact that the market offering bonds in Kuwaiti dinars was reopened to foreign borrowers. They took advantage of this opportunity to borrow Kuwaiti dinars from the Kuwait market. There was an increase in the interest rates on issues [of bonds] in dinars--in keeping with the international market situation. It was noted that buying and selling in the secondary market generally remained sluggish and prices were low.

There were several reasons for this, the most important of which were the great surge of activity in the Kuwaiti securities market, the establishment of companies, and the buying and selling of Kuwaiti and Gulf shares which attracted a large share of local investments. This was also attributable to the inclination on the part of most investors to keep a large part of their assets in dollar deposits in order to benefit from the high interest rates and to keep their assets in liquid form. At the same time, other investors invested their capital in stock markets, especially the Tokyo market in Japan, where the rates reached an all-time high.

Concentration on the Japanese Market

[Question] What is the investment policy which you have followed in light of these circumstances?

[Answer] The Center has, in fact, followed a cautious and well-planned policy. We have concentrated our investments on bonds yielding profitable returns and have increased our proportion of investments in Japanese stocks, especially those with a high yield. This policy has demonstrated its economic benefit. In Kuwait, there was a greater demand for borrowing dinars, in spite of the increase in interest rates. But in view of the fact that a great deal of this money that was borrowed was usually for investment in the purchases of securities or real estate, we followed a cautious policy when complying with these loan requests. Part of this cautious policy was that we have only agreed to loans made to individuals having a great deal of monetary collateral and sufficient and safe mortgages.

[Question] Did you find last year's financial results satisfactory?

[Answer] In spite of the recession which hit the bonds sector, the Center was able to earn large profits which, after the deduction of expenses, allowances, and reserves, totalled about 4,750,000 Kuwaiti dinars, as compared to about 1,500,000 dinars in 1980--that is, there was an increase of 216.7 percent. These profits were earned in spite of the fact that total assets this year increased only 5 percent, amounting to about 40.5 Kuwaiti dinars. This was due to our policy of diversification of investments and concentrating investments in sectors which bring high yields.

1981 Results

[Question] What is your assessment of the 1981 results with regard to the Center's affiliated companies abroad?

[Answer] The [Kuwait] Financial Center has several affiliated investment companies abroad. One of these is the Kuwait-Korea Banking Corporation, which continued making progress in 1981 and earned net profits totalling \$5.5 million. This corporation's assets amounted to about \$118 million. The Petra Financial Corporation in New York also continued earning good profits, and in May of 1981 it became a full member of the New York Stock Exchange. This has been a unique feat, something which has been achieved for the first time by a major corporation from the Arab world--or even from the Middle East. One of the special circumstances which still enables Petra to earn profits is [the fact that Petra] is acquainted with the circumstances of some of the companies which can be totally bought by other companies because of their low market value.

The [Kuwait] Financial Center also is the owner of the Financial Projects Corporation which, in turn, is the owner of an insurance company which has its headquarters in Los Angeles. During 1981 this company earned satisfactory profits in spite of the fact that there is stiff competition between companies there. It should be noted that this company's services cover the entire state of California, and that it also has a branch in San Diego.

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CSO: 4404/442

LIBYA

BRIEFS

TURKISH TRADE DISRUPTED--The Turkish Government has decided to halt trade relations with the Libyan regime because of its failure to settle its debts, amounting to about a billion dollars. A decree issued in the Official Gazette of Turkish Merchants and Contractors has prohibited making any trade deals with Libyan agencies which do not offer guarantees and insurance. The decree points out that Libyan indebtedness to Turkey for the export of goods and workers' wages has reached 350 million dollars while Libya owes Turkish contractors 600 million dollars. Newspaper reports in Ankara have mentioned that the trade agreement signed by the two countries providing for the barter of Libyan oil for Turkish commodities had been frozen in view of the Libyan side's non-compliance with its terms. [Text] [Rabat AL-'ALAM in Arabic 5 Jun 82 p 1]

CSO: 4504/354

MAURITANIA

BRIEFS

ARAB MONETARY LOAN GRANTED--The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has granted a \$7.5 million loan to Mauritania to help offset the country's balance of payments deficit. The loan is to be repaid over three years at an annual interest rate of 3.75 to 4.75 per cent. Mauritania has received a total of \$28 million in aid from the 21-nation fund since its creation in 1977. [Paris AN-NAHAR ARAB REPORT & MEMO in French No 20, 17 May 82 p 5]

CSO: 4500/189

HIJACKER FREES HOSTAGES, SURRENDERS

OW280006 Hong Kong AFP in English 2327 GMT 27 May 82

[Text] Tunis, 27 May (AFP)--A Moroccan hijacker freed all his hostages and then surrendered here today after commandeering a Royal Air Maroc airliner and forcing it to land here, local authorities announced.

The hijacker appeared to be a Muslim fundamentalist who wanted Islamic law to be applied strictly in Morocco, a released crew member said.

The source said the air pirate, a man of about 35, had ordered the pilot to transmit the following demands to the Moroccan Government:

--Prohibition of sale or consumption of alcoholic drinks throughout the country.

--A harsh crackdown against "dissolute morals."

--Strict application of Koranic principles and laws.

--Restriction of Casablanca radio broadcasts to dissemination of Islamic teachings and religious sermons.

The man, who took over the airliner with about 100 people aboard on a Casablanca-bound flight from the Middle East, gave up before his demands were even transmitted to the Moroccan capital, the crew member said.

(The plane later arrived in Casablanca without further incident, it was officially announced in Rabat.)

CSO: 6133/2300

PLANNING CONFERENCE DEVELOPS NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

San'a' AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Apr 82 p 5

/Article: "Resolutions and Recommendations of the Second International Conference on Yemeni Development: The 5-Year Plan Is Aimed at Structural Change in the Domestic Economy"/

/Text/ The international conference on Yemeni development completed its activities yesterday in the meeting hall of the Sheraton Hotel. Attending the concluding session was Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, the prime minister. The conference issued its resolutions and recommendations at this session and our brother 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Bahr, the minister of state and chairman of the Oil and Natural Resource Organization, read out these resolutions, of which this is the verbatim text:

Conclusions of the Activities of the Conference

Proceeding from the faith of Yemen, its people and leaders, in the planning process as an optimum method for organizing national efforts toward the attainment of economic and social development and construction of a modern state that is able to maintain the achievements of the glorious 26 September revolution and able to achieve further steps toward progress and welfare for the Yemeni people:

Stressing the platform for a new Yemen in the framework of the leadership of the president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president and commander of the armed forces, who declares the need to benefit from the expertise and experiences of fraternal Arab and friendly countries and Arab, international and regional organizations: a number of prominent personalities in the field of economics and development planning /met/ to take part in a discussion of the contents of the draft second 5-year plan for 1982-1986 and study its constituent elements and policies.

To this end, the international Yemeni development conference was held in San'a' in the period 17-20 April 1982 under the guidance of the president, Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and commander of the armed forces.

At the inaugural session of the conference, the people in attendance heard the historic speech which the president and commander Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih gave, which contained valuable instructions that underlined democratic planning in terms of preparation and execution--a pioneering platform which was authorized in the

preparation of the second 5-year plan, out of Yemen's political leaders' belief in the importance and the need to rely on popular participation in principle and execution in formulating political, economic and social decisions.

Our brother the president and commander also stressed the need to distribute the fruits of development among the various areas of Yemen, especially the deprived and remote areas, and the importance of supporting the economic sectors, especially cooperative activity and the private sector, to contribute a greater share to development projects.

The president and commander also welcomed the participation of Arab and foreign capital in executing plan projects in the context of the facilities and support which the laws in effect in the country have provided, which have the aim of encouraging investment in development projects.

The conference considered the speech by our brother the president and commander to be one of the important, basic documents of the first session.

The conference, in its general sessions, discussed the various components of the second 5-year plan, 1982-86, in comprehensive and thorough form, along with a review and evaluation of economic performance during the execution of the first 5-year plan, and, in the proceedings following that in the meetings of the two sessions that branched off from that, discussed the components of intelligently guided development in the context of the various economic and social sectors.

The conference expressed its great appreciation for the accomplishments the first 5-year plan realized. As a result of these, domestic product reached a real annual growth rate of 6 percent in the framework of complicated economic circumstances and conditions on the international level.

The conference also expressed its satisfaction with the first 5-year plan projects that had been carried out in regard to establishing the basic developmental and human structure and the requirements for the expansion and development of the productive base it had largely provided, especially in the fields of agriculture, mining and oil.

The conference also observed with satisfaction that the 5-year plan submitted to the conference was aimed at creating a structural change in the domestic economy which would lead to an expansion in and diversification of the productive base in a manner which would support continuous stable development and strengthen self-reliance, above and beyond the great attention this plan gave to development of the organizational structure and organization of the administrative system, in a manner responding to the needs of economic and social development and affording greater capability of execution and performance rates.

The conference expressed its appreciation of the second 5-year plan's elements of balanced development between the sectors of commodity production and the sectors of service production, the approach it took toward narrowing the gap that now exists between gross commodity output and the volume of overall consumption, in its public and private categories, for the sake of transforming negative local savings

into positive, constantly increasing local savings, the means it embraced for realizing equitable distribution of the fruits of development among the various areas of the republic and the policies it has drawn up for the development, preparation and training of human resources to assume the responsibilities of development and derive total benefit from its results, and the opportunities the plan provides for jobs and productive and fruitful employment for Yemeni personnel in the various sectors of the domestic economy.

The conference participants observed with satisfaction the attention this plan has given to the priority of developing the agricultural sector, exploration and drilling for oil and mineral and water resources, and the effort to develop and properly exploit these as a sound point of departure to establish an advanced agricultural-industrial society interlinked in a manner strengthening its ability to rely on itself in future development stages, with the reflection of plan priorities and requirements for attaining its goals of strengthening links among the various sectors and supporting their cohesion and interaction in attaining the desired development of balance, integration and harmony which the distribution of investments entails.

The conference expressed its satisfaction with the policies and measures the plan has advanced to encourage the private sector's participation and to benefit from its initiatives and efforts, whose first fruits have manifested themselves in the accomplishments of the first 5-year plan, strengthening its cherished role in aiding government and public efforts to achieve the goals of the second plan.

It also expressed its satisfaction with the effective role the local cooperative authorities played in local development during the first plan years and the growing role the second plan has provided for popular cooperative initiatives, not just in the fields of service development but also in the fields of the development of production and the expansion of job opportunities in rural and urban areas.

The conference recommended that in order to guarantee the efficiency of plan execution and to overcome the obstacles or bottlenecks this execution might face, a system be set up periodically to follow up on execution and evaluate performance, by virtue of which a review will be made each year of methods, measures and achievements to guarantee the coordination and harmonization of the demands for the attainment of the goals by means of annual plans and systems drawn up to attain them, including the annual government budget and the maintenance of balance between human and material resources and areas for their use.

In the name of the government of the Yemen Arab Republic, the chairman of the conference expressed his deep thanks and great appreciation for the valuable observations and constructive proposals the conference members expressed, which will be taken into consideration in the final formulation of the plan document. The conference chairman also expressed great appreciation for the recommendations the conference made to invite fraternal Arab countries, friendly countries and Arab, regional and international organizations to increase their technical and economic cooperation with the Yemen Arab Republic in order to support its intrinsic efforts aimed at achieving the goals of the second 5-year plan and carrying out its economic and social plans and programs.

I thank you for your loyal attention. Our young country, as our brother the president and commander has asserted, has a new rendezvous with further successes in the execution of the second 5-year plan.

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